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Daily Report

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EEC-ACP Meeting Held in Papua New Guinea

French Nuclear Testing Debated

BK2003040090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0348 GMT
20 Mar 90

[Text] Port Moresby, March 20 (AFP)—France came under fire Tuesday [20 March] for its nuclear testing in the South Pacific at a meeting here of the European Economic Community and its African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) partners.

But a French conservative sprang to his country's defense, saying: "Nuclear testing on Mururoa [Atoll] has not killed a single mosquito."

Hemmo Muntingh, a Dutch socialist, hotly attacked France's "terrible attitude" in continuing testing despite protests from the region.

"This scandalous form of neo-colonialism has to be stopped," he said.

Jean-Claude Martinez, a French conservative, counter-attacked, charging that the Dutch were colonialists in his home region of southern France, where they were buying up agricultural and other properties. He complained that "these people who are colonizing the south of my country think they can come here and tell other people how to go about decolonization."

Foreign Minister Michael Somare of host Papua New Guinea was more typical of speakers on the topic, saying he hoped the "change of wind" in Europe would bring a "change of attitude" on the part of the nuclear powers.

Later in the week, the joint assembly of the 68 ACP nations and the 12-member EEC is to consider a draft resolution to send two independent scientific missions to Mururoa to determine the effects of nuclear testing in the South Pacific atoll. The resolution also asks France to lift defense-secret restrictions on information about the health of the population in the region and environmental consequences, and to suspend testing until those conditions are met.

The EEC-ACP joint assembly is a consultative parliamentary grouping which discusses issues of interest to the partners.

Island States Urge Reduced Paperwork

BK2003074090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0520 GMT
20 Mar 90

[Text] Port Moresby, March 20 (AFP)—Eight island nations of the Pacific on Tuesday [20 March] urged the European Economic Community (EEC) to reduce some of the paperwork required for aid projects to enable them to take full advantage of funds available.

"Sometimes the (European) commission asks too much of our small administrations," Fiji's minister for trade and commerce, Berenado Vunibobo, said.

He was speaking at the first joint assembly of the 12-member EEC and its 68 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) partners ever held in the Pacific region. The grouping is dominated by African states.

The assembly in the Papua New Guinea capital precedes a council of ministers session opening in Fiji at the weekend which will apportion an aid handout of 13.2 billion dollars under the Lome IV convention.

African nations receive the lion's share of Lome aid funds, with the Pacific's eight member states getting around four to five percent.

The EEC commissioner in charge of development, Manuel Marin of Spain, said there was "cause for concern" at funds left unallocated under the previous Lome III agreement.

Speaking for the eight Pacific states, Mr. Vunibobo made a plea for a reduction in the documentation required for project applications. These requirements "place an enormous burden on limited manpower and administration" in the small states, he said.

He and other speakers meanwhile stressed environmental concerns and the related issue of fisheries in Tuesday's talks, and the effect of increasing marine pollution on the economic future of Pacific nations.

Mr. Marin listed communications difficulties given the great distances involved, and the environment as major concerns for the Pacific.

Distance was also a factor in difficulties encountered with linked-aid programs, as it was easier for Pacific states to trade with their neighbors in Australia, New Zealand and even Japan than with their more distant benefactors in Europe, he said.

Japan**Kaifu Stresses Need for Decision in SII Talks***OW2203210590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1459 GMT
22 Mar 90*

[Text] Tokyo, March 22 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) solidified plans to send a delegation to the United States as intra-party talks continued Thursday in response to the latest round of informal talks on structural impediments to trade. Liberal Democratic Party Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa held meetings with several party officers after a conference with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu earlier in the day.

Kaifu told Ozawa U.S. discontent expressed at informal discussions in Virginia over draft suggestions for a mid-term report on the contentious structural impediment initiative (SII) talks called for further action.

Japanese and U.S. bureaucrats are holding unofficial talks just outside Washington to appraise progress toward a mutually acceptable mid-term SII report due in April. U.S. negotiators are seeking the abolition of a law restricting the establishment of large retail outlets, a revision of the anti-monopoly law and greater spending on public works projects as structural measures to alleviate the yawning trade gap.

Ozawa met with LDP Policy Affairs Research Council Chairman Mutsuki Kato and other senior party officials later in the day to relay Kaifu's message stressing the necessity of a political decision on the matter, sources said.

Kato also held a brief session with U.S. Ambassador Michael Armacost at the LDP headquarters touching on the SII issue.

Party officials agreed on plans to dispatch a delegation to the U.S. immediately after the fourth session of SII talks on April 2-3. The party members are to meet with hard-line U.S. Congressional members to explain the Japanese stance.

A four-day meeting among party officials is to begin March 27 to hammer out concrete replies to U.S. concerns before the SII talks.

Senior bureaucrats from the Finance, Foreign, and International Trade and Industry Ministries now in the U.S. will develop a government outline for the mid-term report upon their return next week.

Ozawa also met the same day with former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, back from talks with U.S. President George Bush in Washington.

Joint-U.S. Talks on Importing Auto Parts Begin*OW2203153390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1353 GMT
22 Mar 90*

[Text] Tokyo, March 22 KYODO—Japan and the United States began two days of trade talks on auto parts

Thursday to follow up bilateral negotiations over U.S. product-by-product access to Japan's markets, government officials said. The two-day meeting seeks to assess the level of progress made since the mid-1987 agreement on Japanese imports of U.S. auto components that resulted from so-called Market-Oriented Sector-Selective (MOSS) trade talks, officials at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] said.

The mid-1987 accord did not specify a target for imports of U.S. auto parts, but some U.S. auto parts makers claim that Japan's auto parts market is closed to U.S. suppliers because Japanese automakers purchase parts mainly from their affiliates.

The latest meeting also comes amid fears among Japanese Government and industry officials that Japan's auto parts market may be cited by the United States this year for possible sanction as an area of unfair trade practices under the so-called 301 Clause of the 1988 U.S. Trade Act. During the two days of talks, Japanese officials will explain to their U.S. counterparts a plan to open an office dealing with complaints about U.S. exports to Japan, the MITI officials said.

The Japanese will also propose that U.S. makers participate in the designing of Japanese auto parts to boost sales of U.S.-made auto parts here, they said.

The two sides will also discuss Japanese efforts to import U.S. auto parts and U.S. efforts to boost exports to Japan, the officials added.

Tokyo TASS Chief Comments on Territory Issue*OW1703152790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1443 GMT
17 Mar 90*

[Text] Tokyo, March 17 KYODO—Democratization of the Soviet Union will make it increasingly difficult to resolve a long-standing territorial dispute with Japan, the Tokyo bureau chief of the Soviet official TASS news agency said Saturday. "Before, everything depended on government decisions," Vladimir Koutchko told a symposium on "upheaval in Eastern Europe."

"If some people in the communist party leadership said 'let's return the northern territories to Japan,' there would be no objection," he said. The Japanese refer to four island groups east of Hokkaido, occupied by the Soviet Union since World War II, as the northern territories. They are Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan and the Habomais.

Koutchko said now that public opinion plays an important role in Soviet society, the return of the disputed islands has become more complicated. A comment made last year by scholar and Communist Party member Yuri Afanasyev supporting the return of the islands drew spontaneous protests, particularly among residents of the islands, Koutchko said.

"Please take into consideration that the Soviet Union has a right to have another point of view," Koutchko told the symposium organized by the Minat.

Soviet 'Source' on Upcoming High-Level Visits'

*OW2203133290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1248 GMT
22 Mar 90*

[Text] Tokyo, March 22 KYODO—The Soviet Union will dispatch a "very high-level" representative to Japan to attend the enthronement ceremony for Emperor Akihito on November 12, a Soviet diplomatic source said Thursday. The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that the representative has yet to be decided upon, but added that it may likely be Anatoliy Lukyanov, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet.

In February 1989, Lukyanov, then serving as the first vice chairman of the Presidium, and Vice Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev were dispatched to Japan as Moscow's representatives at the state funeral of Emperor Showa. Lukyanov met with then Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and other top government and party officials.

Observers noted that the significance of the upcoming visit of Lukyanov or another Soviet representative is that it will precede the anticipated visit to Japan in 1991 by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Last month former ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Secretary General Shintaro Abe met with Gorbachev in Moscow and expressed Japan's wish to see the Kremlin leader's visit realized in the spring.

The Soviet representative's attendance at the new emperor's enthronement ceremony will also likely occur in close proximity to a visit to Moscow by Japan's foreign minister to lay the final preparations for Gorbachev's visit.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, meanwhile, plans to visit Japan in the latter half of this year, Soviet diplomatic sources have indicated.

The source said Thursday that Moscow, in coming to a final decision with regard to representation at the enthronement ceremony, is taking into account the rank of representatives to be sent by other countries.

Honduras, the first nation to accept the invitation extended by Japan to 166 nations on March 6, has already informed Tokyo of its intention to send President Rafael Leonardo Calleja.

In a related development, Foreign Ministry officials said the number of invited nations will soon rise to 167 when an invitation is extended to the newly independent state of Namibia.

The Soviet diplomatic source also indicated that Soviet Ambassador to Japan Nikolay Solovyev will not be part

of Gorbachev's reported plans for a sweeping reshuffle of up to 15 envoys, including those to several prominent countries.

Solovyev will remain in his post at least until Gorbachev's visit to Japan is realized, the source said.

The source indicated that elderly Soviet Ambassador to China Oleg Troyanovskiy, who served in Tokyo between 1967 and 1976, may be included in the reshuffling, along with some envoys to East European nations.

On the anticipated visit to Moscow of LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, possibly in May, the source said nothing concrete has been decided yet. Soviet diplomatic sources and Foreign Ministry officials concurred that the visit would be unlikely to take place unless guarantees were in place that Ozawa would be able to meet for talks with Gorbachev.

The Soviet sources also revealed that a senior Soviet Embassy official in Tokyo met recently with Japanese Foreign Ministry officials to brief them on Moscow's position with regard to the breakaway republic of Lithuania. They said it was explained that the matter is entirely an internal Soviet affair to be resolved under Soviet domestic law and that the Japanese side accepted this viewpoint.

The sources also said that the holding of the next meeting of a bilateral working-level group set up to discuss a belated peace treaty, to which Japan has linked a settlement to a territorial dispute over four northern islands, is not contingent on a date being set for Shevardnadze's postponed visit to Japan.

They also divorced Shevardnadze's visit from the upcoming round of deputy foreign ministerial talks, which were last held in March 1989.

Foreign Ministry officials said that either or both of the two unscheduled meetings could be held before, during, or after Shevardnadze's visit.

They also said the two sides have agreed to discuss the date of Shevardnadze's visit, originally expected to be held in March, after Shevardnadze's talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in early April.

Ministry Protests ROK Boat 'Intrusion'

*OW2303095690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0914 GMT
23 Mar 90*

[Text] Tokyo, March 23 KYODO—Japan has lodged an official protest with the South Korean Government for the intrusion of its vessels into Japanese territorial waters to obstruct Japanese maritime policing activities, a Foreign Ministry spokesman revealed Friday.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Taizo Watanabe said the ministry on Thursday summoned South Korean Embassy Economic Councillor Kim Ha-chung to receive a message of protest from Seiichiro Otsuka, deputy

director of the ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau. "Mr. Otsuka drew the attention to the Korean Embassy with regard to this incident of interference by a government vessel of the Republic of Korea," Watanabe told reporters.

Ministry sources said Kim promised to convey the message to his home government and that Seoul will investigate the matter further. Japanese officials said the incident, which at its height involved some eight vessels from both nations, occurred between the morning to afternoon hours of March 20 some 18 kilometers east of Tsushima Island, which lies in the Tsushima Strait separating the two countries.

A vessel of the Japanese Maritime Safety Agency (MSA), which spotted a South Korean fishing boat in Japanese territorial waters with its name and number concealed, ordered it to halt for boarding and inspection.

Officials said the 15 crewmen of the Korean boat resisted and threw objects at the Japanese vessel, and injuring one MSA crew member. After being rammed by the 1,000-ton MSA vessel, the South Korean crewmen abandoned their crippled craft and took to a rubber dinghy. One of them fell overboard and was rescued by the MSA vessel, officials said.

While the MSA vessel was attempting to capture the remaining 14 crewmen, a South Korean fisheries agency vessel arrived on the scene and engaged in "obstructive activities," officials said. Another South Korean fisherman left the dinghy and was picked up by the fisheries agency vessel and transferred to a South Korean maritime police boat.

Three more MSA vessels were subsequently dispatched to the scene and another South Korean maritime police vessel arrived to help resolve the dispute, officials said. Officials said that the obstructive activities engaged in by the two South Korean Government vessels, which occurred despite repeated MSA warnings to withdraw, constituted a clear violation of Japanese law.

"I think this is the first time that a Korean Government vessel has publicly interfered in the use of public authority on the part of the Japanese Government," Watanabe said.

Japan is now holding the 14 crewmen at an undisclosed location and officials said they will be tried for their refusal to submit to inspection and for obstructing official duties.

Officials said that while the fishermen were not actually caught in the act of illegal fishing, the presence of fishing equipment aboard their vessel told the tale.

South Korean Government vessels and fishing boats are traditionally allowed the right of safe passage through Japanese waters. Officials were anxious to stress that the incident should not carry have [as received] political consequences.

Polish, Hungarian Trainees Invited to Seminars

*OW1903153190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1304 GMT
19 Mar 90*

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—Japan has invited 100 government officials and business leaders from Poland and Hungary to attend business and production management seminars, the Foreign Ministry said Monday. This marks the first step in realizing a vow made in Berlin in January by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to extend Japanese aid to Eastern Europe. Kaifu said Japan planned to give technical cooperation to the two nations in the fields of business management, environment, and agriculture for the next few years.

Between March 21 and April 5, 50 Hungarian participants will attend separate lectures on business management and production management, while 50 Polish people of various vocations start the program later from March 25 until April 9. The program is intended to introduce Japan's knowledge and experience in the requested fields to help promote the transition to a market-oriented economy in these nations, ministry officials said.

The group will also visit a Nissan Motor Co. factory and Yokogawa Electric Corp. in western Japan as well as the Tokyo Stock Exchange, the officials said.

Firms which can provide model examples of business and production management are chosen for the training program, they said. For 1990, a few more such training programs could be arranged with about the same number of participants from both countries, they added.

Japan has extended some 2 billion dollars in economic and technical assistance to Poland and Hungary.

Last Friday, Hungarian Finance Minister Laszlo Bekesi met with Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama to confirm continued Japanese cooperation after the nation's national election on March 25, other ministry officials said.

Central Bank Governor To Continue Yen Support

*OW2303053590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0419 GMT
23 Mar 90*

[Text] Tokyo, March 23 KYODO—Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno renewed his pledge Friday to continue efforts to stabilize the currency market, which he described as "still unstable." Mieno made the remark at a session of the Budget Committee of the House of Councilors.

The central bank chief reaffirmed that the bank will maintain closely coordinated market intervention to defend the yen's value.

The U.S. dollar ended the three-hour morning session in Tokyo at 155.05 yen, up 0.22 yen from Thursday's close.

Mieno also told the upper house committee that he sees no reasons for the yen to continue to lose its value against the U.S. currency in view of Japan's fundamental economic

strength. The Japanese economy, he said, is the most well balanced among those of major industrial countries.

Antipartheid Leader on Tightening Sanctions

*OW1703120490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1137 GMT
17 Mar 90*

[Text] Tokyo, March 17 KYODO—South African antipartheid church leader Frank Chikane urged Japan on Saturday to use its economic leverage to press Pretoria to quickly dismantle racial segregation there. Chikane, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, warned that violence is imminent if growing expectations among the black majority for a nonracial society are not met.

Economic sanctions are more important than ever, he said. African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela is out of prison, "but he is not free as apartheid is still intact," Chikane told a public meeting here. "We need to put on pressure so as not to miss this opportunity...for a just society," he said.

Chikane said he is worried that if negotiations on dismantling apartheid do not start immediately the excitement surrounding Mandela's release February 11 could lead to violent confrontations.

Mandela is expected to meet South African President F.W. De Klerk in the near future to discuss preconditions for opening negotiations on establishing a nonracial state.

The ANC is demanding the release of some 3,000 political prisoners prior to entering a ceasefire, and embarking on negotiations.

Chikane, here since Tuesday at the invitation of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, said he urged the Japanese Government to adopt a "two-pronged" policy toward South Africa of tightening sanctions while providing training and education for the black population.

While welcoming Japan's increasing willingness to provide assistance to blacks, Chikane said it is an "insult" to provide education without helping the majority attain equal rights with the white minority. "Preparing the people for a new society without delivering the new society will not help us," Chikane said.

Chikane said high-level government officials did not respond to his request.

Chikane, who leaves Japan on Sunday, also met members of the business community and church leaders during his six-day stay.

Lower House Passes Supplementary Budget

*OW2203124690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1227 GMT
22 Mar 90*

[Text] Tokyo, March 22 KYODO—The House of Representatives on Thursday passed the supplementary budget for fiscal 1989 and four related bills after a

two-week stalemate in diet business. The Diet resumed business on the same day after the stalemate, that began on March 9, was resolved.

The supplementary budget was passed in the lower house with a majority support by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). The 5.9 trillion yen budget will take effect on Monday although the opposition-controlled second chamber, the House of Councillors, is expected to reject it the same day.

Article 60 of the constitution stipulates the lower house takes precedence over the upper house in budget-related decisions.

Diet business had been stalled over the handling of the supplementary budget and six related bills.

The LDP, which holds a stable majority in the powerful lower chamber, proposed voting on the budget and bills in a package while the opposition camp insisted voting on them separately. In a compromise solution, the secretaries general of the LDP and three noncommunist opposition parties agreed Tuesday to vote on the budget and four of the six bills in a package and on the two others separately.

In Thursday's plenary session of the lower house, the three opposition parties voted against the supplementary budget but they voted for four of the six budget-related bills.

'Price-Freeze Zones' Proposed as Prices Soar

*OW2303082690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0639 GMT
23 Mar 90*

[Text] Tokyo, March 23 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu urged his cabinet ministers Friday to consider introducing price-freeze zones to combat soaring land prices. Kaifu's call came a day after the National Land Agency released a report that the national average price of residential land had risen by 17 percent as of January 1 from a year previously.

"We must keep in mind the need to establish a system of price-control zones if necessary," Kaifu told a cabinet meeting on land policy. It was the prime minister's first official mention of the plan, under which land sales in such zones would have to be cleared by local autonomies.

Kaifu told reporters after the cabinet meeting that he intends to instruct local autonomies to designate price-freeze zones for land, noting that steep increases in land prices were spreading nationwide. Asked if price-freezing would not have negative effects, he said, "We must stop prices rising first. We need a certain degree of possible measures."

National Land Agency officials, however, have been less than enthusiastic about the price-freeze proposal, saying it would be difficult to designate such zones and pointing to the possibility of lawsuits by real estate firms claiming that their rights were being infringed upon. The agency, arguing that such zoning may fuel speculative sales

outside the controlled areas, dropped the idea of introducing such a system in 1987, when Tokyo land prices soared wildly in speculative deals.

Kaifu told the cabinet meeting that the land-price issue is the most important problem for his government to tackle and said that stronger control is required over financial institutions lending money for real estate transactions.

According to Bank of Japan figures, Japanese commercial, trust and long-term credit banks had outstanding loans of 52.5 trillion yen for real estate dealings as of last December, up 14.6 percent from a year earlier.

The Land Agency estimates that in addition to this, some 40 trillion yen in loans for land deals was provided by nonbank financial institutions, including securities houses, leasing firms and credit companies. This makes a total of over 90 trillion yen tied up in land deals, compared with Japan's national budget for fiscal 1990 of some 66 trillion yen.

Kaifu also directed the cabinet ministers to take measures to shatter the "myth" that land sales can produce big profits, and to have corporate owners of unused land report to the authorities on their plans for using the land.

In the meeting, Construction Minister Tamisuke Watanuki and Home Affairs Minister Keiwa Okuda asked National Land Agency Director General Moriyoshi Sato to take the initiative in formulating a comprehensive government land policy.

Kaifu, in speaking to reporters, also showed a positive stance on easing restrictions on urban development in certain areas, something the U.S. is seeking in trade talks with Japan as a way to increase the housing and other related markets. "We must consider various things ... Like a clear definition of greenery areas for production and housing areas," he said.

Okuda, meanwhile, said at a separate press conference that one way of holding down land prices is to decentralize government ministries and agencies from Tokyo to other prefectures. He also called for a review of the real estate tax and increasing the tax on farmland in urban areas to the same level as that on housing land.

Soaring land prices have made it virtually impossible for the average salaried worker in Japan to purchase a house in urban areas and there is widespread public dissatisfaction over the housing problem.

Minister Fukaya To Make Statement on Donations

*OW2003041690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0350 GMT
20 Mar 90*

[Text] Tokyo, March 20 KYODO—Post and Telecommunications Minister Takashi Fukaya plans to make public the amount of political donations he reportedly received from Recruit Co. while the information conglomerate was embroiled in an influence-peddling scandal, top government spokesman Misoji Sakamoto

said Tuesday. Sakamoto said Fukaya, in telephone conversations on Monday and Tuesday, did not indicate when he planned to report his findings.

The chief cabinet secretary declined to say what would happen if the reports that Fukaya had received such donations were confirmed.

An independent investigation by KYODO news service showed that a political support organization of Fukaya's received at least 20,000 yen a month from Recruit through December 1988, half a year after the stock-for-favors scandal first surfaced in the media. Receiving such donations is not illegal if they are reported to the relevant authorities, but might be considered an "ethical problem," political analysts said.

Since joining Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's second cabinet, formed on February 28, Fukaya has denied having any relation with Recruit Co. Kaifu went to great lengths to ensure that scandal-tainted politicians were not included in his cabinet, despite pressure from influential party leaders.

Former Finance Minister Michio Watanabe and former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe pressured Kaifu to include Recruit-sullied members of their factions in his cabinet, but Kaifu refused their requests.

Takeshita Resumes LDP Party Activities

*OW2203145790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1326 GMT
22 Mar 90*

[Text] Tokyo, March 22 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, who heads the largest faction in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), resumed Thursday his intra-party activities by attending a factional meeting. Takeshita curtailed visible political activities within the LDP after he resigned as prime minister last June following his involvement in the recruit-influence-peddling scandal.

The former prime minister, however, is considered the most powerful behind-the-scenes figure in Japanese politics. Takeshita played a key role in selecting Toshiki Kaifu as prime minister last August, political observers say. Takeshita, who had also turned over the chairmanship of his 104-member faction to his political mentor Shin Kanemaru, is expected to become top advisor to the faction, faction sources said.

After the February 18 general election, Takeshita began to participate in official political activities. He met U.S. President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker in Washington earlier this month and discussed bilateral trade and economic relations.

New JSP Representatives Take Pledge of Purity

OW2203204690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1308 GMT
22 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 22 KYODO—Newly elected representatives of the Japan Socialist Party (JSP) bid farewell to disposable chopsticks and nonrecycled paper Thursday in a symbolic pledge of purity aimed at refurbishing the image of the labor-backed opposition party. Calling themselves the "New Wave" group, the committee of 20 Diet members led by lawyers and social activists agreed to use recycled paper, turn off the lights when they are out of the office, and refrain from using stilted language.

The new wavers also agreed to push for more nonsmoking areas in the Diet, or parliament. An aide to new wave leader Tadatoshi Akiba, a former mathematics professor, said the group intends to serve as a policy think tank. The initial action plan was adopted as a first step that could be easily accomplished by individuals, he said.

The group said in a statement the JSP's failure to deprive the ruling Liberal Democratic Party of a majority in the House of Representatives election in February indicated lingering public distrust in its policymaking abilities. The newcomers pledged to turn the party into a more flexible organization that welcomes creative contributions from each member and is prepared to take over power.

The JSP boosted its number of seats from 83 to 139 in February, in part due to the popularity of candidates from citizen activist groups. The JSP has traditionally relied on labor unions as a source of candidates.

Toshiba Plans CFC Substitute Development

OW2003003090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1311 GMT
19 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—Toshiba Corp. Monday announced it has developed a washing agent derived from silicon for semiconductor devices to replace chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) 113. CFCs are blamed for destroying the earth's ozone layer.

Toshiba said the new agent is available in two forms: the FRW Series, suitable for washing electronic components, and the FRS Series, suitable for washing metal, ceramic, and plastic components. The new washing agents will go on sale in April at 2,200 yen per kilogram.

In a related development, NEC [Nippon Electric Company] Corp. also announced Monday that it is now aiming to stop using all types of CFCs by March 1995, about five years ahead of its previous target year of 2000. Nearly all of the major Japanese electrical manufacturers now plan to terminate their use of all types of CFCs by 1993-1996.

NEC, which used 900 tons of CFC 113 in 1988 to wash microchips, earlier aimed to halve its use of CFCs by 1993 and to stop using them totally by 2000.

NEC said washing agents of inorganic compounds or alcohols would be used as CFC substitutes for semiconductor devices, agents of terpene or petroleum derivation for precision parts such as printer heads, and agents of terpene or water for printed circuit boards.

Mongolia

Background of New President, Premier Reported

OW2203132990 Ulaanbaatar International Service
in English 1200 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] By the decree of the Mongolian People's Great Hural, Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat was elected chairman of the Presidium of the People's Great Hural, and Sharabyn Gungaadorj was appointed chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Mongolian People's Republic.

Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat was born in 1942 into a cattle breeder's family. Ochirbat graduated from the Mining Industry Institute in the Soviet Union in 1965 as an engineer exploiter, and in 1975 defended a candidate thesis of technical science. Between 1966 and 1972, he worked according to his speciality, and since 1972 up to 1976 held the posts of deputy minister and minister of fuel industry in energy, and in 1985 was appointed minister of foreign economic relations and supply of Mongolia.

Prime Minister Sharabyn Gungaadorj was born in 1935 into a cattle breeder's family. In 1959, Gungaadorj graduated from the Moscow Academy of Agricultural Sciences as an agronomist, and in 1976, he defended candidate degree. He started his career as an agronomist at [Armaman] State Farm. Since 1968, he had been holding different managerial posts under the Agriculture Ministry apparatus, and since 1986 has been working as minister of agriculture and food industry of Mongolia. And in 1987, Gungaadorj was appointed deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of Mongolia.

North Korea

Letter to ROK Calls for 'Top-Level Conference'

Conference Adopts Letter 22 Mar

SK2203104090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT
22 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 22 (KCNA)—A consultative meeting of representatives of the DPRK Government and political parties was held here today.

The meeting was participated in by representatives of the Central Committees of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Korean Social Democratic Party and the Chondoist Chongu Party and the Central People's Committee and the Administration Council of the DPRK.

It discussed practical questions that arise in arranging at an early date a North-South top-level conference in

which the heads of the authorities and the leaders of political parties will take part to remove the barrier of division and realize free travel and full-scale opening between the North and the South.

Recalling that the first joint meeting of representatives of the DPRK Government and political parties which was held on January 9, in a letter to the heads of the authorities and leaders of political parties in South Korea, proposed to have a preliminary contact at Panmunjom early in February for the arrangement of a North-South conference and the second joint meeting held on February 14 again sent a letter to the South side, it stressed that this was a manifestation of the sincerity and efforts of the DPRK Government and political parties to carry the new reunification proposal into practice.

The letter of the South Korean "prime minister" which came in reply to the letter addressed to the head of the authorities and the leaders of political parties in South Korea by the second joint meeting of representatives of the DPRK Government and political parties on February 14 cannot be viewed as one reflecting even the intentions of political parties, it pointed out, calling attention to the fact that no reply letters have yet come from the leaders of political parties.

The consultative meeting sharply denounced the South Korean authorities who, far from responding to the DPRK's proposal for the convocation of the conference, suspended all the on-going dialogues between the North and the South at a time by forcing the very provocative "Team Spirit 90" joint military exercises against the partners of dialogue together with the outside forces and are raising a hysteric anti-communist row these days over the so-called "fourth tunnel incident" faked up by their stereotyped method.

The participants at the meeting were unanimous in pointing out that the new smear campaign of the South Korean authorities is a ridiculous artifice to divert elsewhere the attention of the Korean and alien peoples who demand the pulling down of the concrete wall, free travel and complete opening between the North and the South and a prompt convocation of a conference to put them into practice.

The consultative meeting confirmed again that it is the unanimous will and desire of the Korean nation and the urgent demand of the times to destroy the concrete wall in the area south of the Military Demarcation Line of Korea, the only offspring of the cold war and confrontation remaining in the world, which is fundamentally contrary to the worldwide trend toward independence and detente and realise free travel and complete opening between the North and the South. It decided to press ahead with the work for a prompt convocation of the North-South top-level conference in which the heads of the authorities and the leaders of the political parties will take part.

According to the unanimous demand of the representatives of the government and political parties, the meeting decided to send again to the partners of negotiation in

South Korea in the name of the meeting, a letter containing our persevering efforts and new positive proposal for the convocation of the conference, and adopted it with unanimous approval.

Letter Sent to 'Authorities'

*SK2303111090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1043 GMT
23 Mar 90*

[Text] Pyongyang March 23 (KCNA)—Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the Administration Council, upon authorisation, sent a letter to the authorities and co-leader of the Democratic Liberal Party of South Korea, which was adopted at a consultative meeting of the representatives of the DPRK Government and political parties held in Pyongyang on March 22.

Since your side repeated unreasonable and preposterous assertions devoid of common sense in the reply to our sincere second letter, we are constrained to clarify our position to this, the letter says, and continues:

In your latest letter, your side talked about "reconciliation" and "unification," but, in actuality, it blindly opposed the very negotiation for the settlement of the issue of national reunification, indifferent to the irresistible desire of the fellow countrymen for reunification, not backing away in the least from your position of confrontation and division.

If there were no concrete wall, a symbol of division and confrontation, in your area, your side should not have refused to take over pictures and video tapes on the wall and should not have turned down our proposal for letting people of different strata from the North and the South verify it on the spot.

Your authorities suggested concluding an "agreement on traffic and communications" to realise mutual visits and opening while leaving the concrete wall intact. This is not designed to realise free travel and full-scale opening but to have only exchanges on a very limited and narrow scale under the strict control and supervision of the authorities.

If your authorities truly want to reunify the country, they should renounce the anti-national, closed-door policy of arresting and penalising those who have returned after doing things good for reunification and take a decisive step, first of all, to pull down the concrete wall and realise free travel and full-scale opening, instead of insisting on an "agreement on traffic and communications."

As for the "summit talks" proposed by your side, we consider that it is no more than an excuse to oppose our proposal for a top-level conference.

If your side truly wants to see that the top-level authorities meet and discuss the reunification question, your side should seriously approach and accept our proposal for the top-level conference which provides for a meeting of the heads of the North and the South.

Your side, however, rejected our proposal in the second reply, too, revealing your attitude of totally denying the top-level talks.

Your side behaves rashly, indeed.

Where did your side get the face to defend its treacherous acts, slandering our just self-defensive measure, while staging the large-scale joint military maneuvers with outside forces against fellow countrymen?

We cannot but take a serious view of the fact that your side is these days leading the North-South relations to the extreme pitch of strain by bringing forward the so-called "tunnel incident" again and connecting it with us in a far-fetched manner.

The U.S. forces side evaded our proposal for a joint investigation at the 455th meeting of the Military Armistice Commission held on March 14. This clearly proves that the "fourth tunnel," is a fake invented by your side under a plan like all the previous "tunnel incidents."

If your side is truly interested in the improvement of the North-South relations and the reunification of the country, it must abandon the bad habit of staging such clumsy dramas as "tunnel incidents" and using them as a means of prolonging its remaining days.

Since your side is still denying the existence of the concrete wall, fearful of its admission, we propose your side to form a joint investigation team involving representatives of the authorities and political parties of the North and the South and conduct a joint investigation on the spot from 10:00 on March 30.

We think it desirable that the joint investigation team involves more than 100 members from our side including 10 odd representatives of the authorities and political parties, military experts and journalists, our helicopters carrying them to the spot, and the joint investigation is conducted from the west to the east.

We propose that, for a debate on the working formalities for this, three or so working officials of the authorities and political parties from each side have a contact at the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission at Panmunjom at 10:00 on March 28.

We hope that your side will clearly see our unswerving will to have the wall pulled down on the basis of a joint investigation and realize free travel and complete opening and take affirmative measures proper to it.

Joint Wall Investigation Urged

*SK2303104990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1030 GMT
23 Mar 90*

[Text] Pyongyang March 23 (KCNA)—Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the Administration Council, upon authorization, sent a letter to Kim Tae-chung, president of the Party for Peace and Democracy, which was adopted at a consultative meeting of representatives of the DPRK Government and political parties held here on March 22.

The letter says:

We representatives of the DPRK Government and political parties held a consultative meeting out of the single desire to open up a new phase on the way of national reunification, the cherished desire of the nation, by joint efforts of the entire fellow countrymen and are sending this third letter to you.

We had held joint meetings of representatives of the DPRK Government and political parties already twice, in January and February, adopted letters containing a concrete proposal to pull down the concrete wall and open the door of reunification and sent them to our negotiating partners of the South side.

To our regret, however, the South Korean authorities have failed to show a positive response to our fair and aboveboard proposal for negotiation.

The South Korean prime minister in his reply letters to our side dated February 1 and March 3 rejected our side's proposal to form a North-South joint inspection team to confirm whether the concrete wall exists or not, dismissing as "fictitious" the wall which the whole world had confirmed and even the U.S. forces side to the Military Armistice Commission admitted.

This rejection on the part of the South Korean authorities is as good as admitting the existence of the concrete wall by them.

As for the proposal of the South Korean authorities in their recent letter to sign "an agreement on traffic and communications" between the North and the South and hold "talks between top authorities," it means that they, in actuality, oppose free travel and full-scale opening, though they welcome it in words, and they prefer to live in a state of separation while making extremely restricted travel and partial exchange orchestrated by the authorities and it is an extremely insidious argument stemming from their intention to exclude even the lawful opposition party from dialogue and the solution of the reunification question and continue pursuing their separatist policy.

The obtaining situation does not allow us to frivol away our time by phrasemongering, antagonism and confrontation.

It is, indeed, a disgrace to our nation which has a stronger desire for reunification than any other nation to maintain the state of confrontation and division, while leaving the wall of division the like of which cannot be found in any other part of the world, at a time when the countries whose territorial division had been internationally legalized are now heading for reunification, pulling down the wall.

The question of national reunification which is directly linked with the destiny of the nation is a question transcending ideology and system, and the authorities and political parties on the North and the South bear unavoidable, heavy responsibility for it alike.

In order to bring earlier national reunification, we consider it necessary to transcend difference in isms [as received] such as communism and liberal democracy and to solve the reunification question on the basis of national conscience.

From this point of view we politely urge your party once again to respond at an early date to a North-South top-level conference involving the heads of the authorities and the leaders of political parties which will discuss and resolve the questions of removing the concrete wall and realizing free travel and full-scale opening.

And, since the South Korean authorities persistently deny the existence of the wall, we propose to you to form a North-South joint fact-finding team with representatives of the authorities and political parties and conduct a joint spot investigation of the concrete wall from 10:00 March 30.

We are of the opinion that the joint fact-finding team should involve from our side more than 100 personnel including some 10 representatives of the authorities and political parties, military experts and journalists, who will be carried by helicopters of our side, and it is desirable that the joint investigation should be made from the west to the east.

We propose that three or so working officials of the authorities and political parties from each side have a contact at the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission at Panmunjom at 10:00 March 28 to discuss working formalities in this regard.

We sincerely hope that you will make due efforts for an earlier North-South top-level conference in which the heads of the authorities and the leaders of political parties will take part.

South Defense Minister's Remarks Denounced

*SK2203105490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1042 GMT
22 Mar 90*

[“Outcry of Bellicose Element”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 22 (KCNA)—The puppet defence minister of South Korea on March 21 reportedly called for establishing “a firm defence posture” to cope with the fast-changing internal and external situation under the trite pretext of “threat from the North.”

In an “instructive letter” to the commanding officers of the puppet army of and above the brigade level, he egged them on to confrontation with the North.

This was a foolish hokum of the South Korean puppet clique to conceal the criminal nature of the aggressive “Team Spirit 90” joint military maneuvers being staged under the command and supervision of the U.S. imperialists and to “justify” their treacherous acts for a war against the North.

The puppet minister also cried for “reorientation of combat power buildup” to make up for the fictitious “reduction” of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces in South Korea.

This revealed the sinister intention of his clique to take over larger quantities of new-type weapons from their master, U.S. imperialism, under the cloak of “military cutback,” arm the puppet army with them and step up war preparations against the North.

Facts show that, with the No Tae-u group left intact, the peace and peaceful reunification of the country cannot be achieved and the entire nation will, in the long run, fall a victim to U.S.-imposed nuclear war.

‘Nuclear Preemptive Strike’ Exercise Denounced

*SK2203154390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1510 GMT
22 Mar 90*

[Text] Pyongyang March 22 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists let six Guam-based “B-52” strategic bombers fly into the sky over South Korea between around 16:00 and 18:00 on March 20 and 21 and frantically staged a provocative bombing exercise simulating a nuclear preemptive strike at targets in the central area and depth of the northern half of Korea, according to military sources.

The Pacific Air Force Command of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces on March 20 and 21 staged aerial war exercises in the sky above the operational zone for a surprise attack on the targets in the inland and coastal areas of the northern half of Korea with “F-15” and “F-16” fighter-bombers, “A-6” and “A-7” assault planes, “FA-18” pursuit-assault planes, refuelling tanks, survey and other planes they had brought to South Korea from their bases overseas.

The total number of the warplanes mobilized by the U.S. imperialists in the “Team Spirit 90” from 05:00 to 22:00 march 21 was as many as 700.

The hysteric war exercises of the U.S. imperialists clearly show that they are bringing the situation on the Korean peninsula to a dangerous brink of war.

U.S. Defensive Exercise Claim ‘Preposterous’

*SK2203101990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1009 GMT
22 Mar 90*

[“Defence’-Veiled Attack Exercises Against DPRK”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 22 (KCNA)—It is a preposterous sophism for the U.S. imperialist aggressors to insist that the “Team Spirit” military maneuvers are necessary to cope with “threat from the North” on the Korean peninsula and they are “defensive exercises,” declares NODONG SINMUN in a signed article today.

The article says:

We have declared more than once that we have no intention to invade the South, put forward many a proposal for peaceful reunification and made consistent efforts to put them into effect. This year we made a new epoch-making proposal for national reunification and have sincerely endeavoured to realise it, the proposal for pulling down the concrete wall built in the area south of the Military Demarcation Line and realising free travel and full-scale open door between the North and the South. It is self-evident that charging the DPRK with "threat of southward invasion" is a false propaganda which can convince nobody.

As far as the threat on the Korean peninsula is concerned, it is not "threat from the North" but threat from the South. It is we, therefore, who need defensive exercises.

The "Team Spirit 90" staged by the U.S. imperialists and the puppets under the cloak of "defensive exercise" is in every inch a war game for a nuclear attack on the North.

They are holding three-dimensional attack exercises for a modern warfare such as missile attack, bomb-dropping, air strike and commando airlifting exercises in a simulated attack on the front area and the innermost rear of the DPRK. Nobody will regard those exercises as "defensive." It is natural that the world people brand the "Team Spirit" joint military maneuvers held with the introduction of numerous means of nuclear war and the use of live shots, shells and bombs in a simulated attack on the northern half of Korea as a most adventurous test nuclear war and preliminary war to invade the DPRK.

No matter how craftily the U.S. imperialist aggressors may put the veil of "defence" on the war game designed to round off the nuclear war preparations in South Korea, now the biggest nuclear forward base in the Far East, they will convince none of the world people.

Nobody can vouch that they would not unleash a total war against the northern half of Korea while playing with fire with large armed forces under the cloak of "defensive exercises."

We see behind the "defence" veil of the U.S. imperialists' dark clouds of nuclear war.

If the aggressors ignite a war, the Korean people will mete out a deserving retaliatory blow to them.

Struggle Against Team Spirit Termed 'Natural'

SK2303045690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0445 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 23 (KCNA)—It is only too natural for the South Korean students and people to rise in a struggle demanding an immediate halt to the "Team Spirit-90" joint military exercises and immediate withdrawal of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces from South Korea, stresses NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today.

Referring to the fierce anti-U.S., anti-war struggle of the South Korean students and people of late, the news analyst says:

How can they who ardently aspire after reconciliation and unity between the North and the South and national reunification remain a mere onlooker to the "Team Spirit" maneuvers, a preliminary war, a test nuclear war for a preemptive attack on the northern half of Korea?

The U.S. imperialists have so far claimed that they stage the "Team Spirit" maneuvers because the South Korean people want them and the U.S. forces remain in South Korea because its people oppose their pullout. If they really respect the will of the South Korean people, they must discontinue the war exercises and withdraw their aggression forces without delay as demanded by the South Korean people.

If they persist in their adventurous military exercises for a war against the North and moves for a permanent occupation of South Korea, lending a deaf ear to the legitimate demand of the South Korean people, they would bump into stronger protests and denunciation from the people.

Editorial Previews Election of SPA Deputies

SK2303060090 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0008 GMT 23 Mar 90

[NODONG SINMUN 23 March editorial: "Let Us Greet the Election of Deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) With High Political Zeal and Labor Exploits"]

[Text] It will not be long before we hold the election of SPA deputies under circumstances in which we, the whole country, and all people are dynamically conducting a march to effect new revolutionary upsurges. Hearing with great pleasure and deep emotion the news of the election of SPA deputies, all party members and workers are overflowing with firm resolve to more firmly consolidate our revolutionary power by greeting the election with great success in work.

The forthcoming election is a great political event which is of great significance in the struggle for our people's political life and their struggle for socialist construction. It will serve as an important occasion to further reinforce our people's regime in line with the new demands for discharging the cause of imbuing the entire society with the *chuche* idea.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Today we are assigned the task of further reinforcing the people's regime in conformity with the demands of a new stage of developing revolution and of enhancing its function and role in an all-round manner.

Our people's regime, which was founded by the great leader and is being guided by dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, is a *chuche*-oriented revolutionary regime with the

great *chuche* idea as its guiding idea and is a mighty weapon for socialist and communist construction. Thanks to the people's regime which was born in the deep and durable historic roots of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle organized and led by the great leader, our people have honorably defended the dignity and sovereignty of the country over the past period and have built an independent, self-reliant, and self-defending socialist power in the fatherland.

Under the wise leadership of the party, the people's regime is excellently fulfilling its mission and duty as the mighty weapon of the revolution and construction, the defender of the people's freedom and right, and the safeguard of the fatherland and the revolution. A firm guarantee for achieving the endless prosperity of the fatherland and the nation and the happiness of the people, as well as for victoriously accelerating the socialist cause, lies in constantly enhancing the people's regime.

Successfully holding the election of SPA deputies is of great significance in enhancing the people's regime. When the SPA, the highest power organ, is firmly formed with genuine revolutionaries and true people's deputies who are endlessly loyal to the party, the leader, the fatherland, and the people, the people's regime will be further strengthened and greater victory and advance will be made in accomplishing the socialist cause.

Therefore, for all the people to greet the election of SPA deputies with high political zeal and shining labor success is a matchlessly rewarding and honorable work for strengthening the people's regime and for powerfully accelerating the *chuche* cause in conformity with the new demands of our developing revolution. The forthcoming election of SPA deputies is the important work of giving play to the invincible might of our people firmly united and bond to the party, the leader, and the regime of the Republic as one.

The single-hearted unity of the leader, the party, and the masses is a source of the invincibility of our revolution. As there has been a single-hearted unity in which the party trusts the people and the people follow the party, our people have been able to win one victory after another, surmounting all types of difficulties and ordeals.

When all the people greet the forthcoming election with great political and labor success, they will have powerfully demonstrated once again their invincibility and firm unity around the party and the leader. They will have added another shining chapter to our party's history of unity and cohesion.

The forthcoming election is also of great significance in vigorously displaying the superiority and invincible vitality of our country's socialist system and in accelerating socialist construction. Our socialist system is the most superior man-centered social system in which the great *chuche* idea has been brilliantly embodied. Our people are enjoying to their hearts' content all types of political freedom and rights and a happy life as the true masters of the state and society under our socialist system.

For all people to successfully greet the scheduled election of SPA deputies is to powerfully display once again the superiority of our socialist system—an advanced man-centered social system. If all people effect great upsurges in production with great political and ideological resolve, along with the election at hand, they will bring about a drastic turn in the struggle to effect new upsurges while upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year's address and the decisions of the party's plenary session.

Also, by greeting the election with high political zeal and labor success, the occasion will serve to greatly encourage the world's revolutionary people, as well as the South Korean people—people who powerfully struggle for independence, democracy, and reunification. The occasion of the election also will deal a heavy blow to the antisocialist maneuvers of the imperialists.

All party members and workers should deeply recognize the great political significance and importance of the election and powerfully struggle to significantly greet the election.

Above all, what is important to this end is for the party members and workers to have high political resolve to more firmly consolidate our revolutionary regime. They can do this by solidly uniting themselves around the party and the leader on the occasion of the forthcoming election.

All people's single-hearted unity with the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and dear Comrade Kim Chong-il at the center is the life of our people's regime and the basic source of ever-victorious and invincible might. As the people's regime upholds the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song as the great leader and is under the wise leadership of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, it is brilliantly leading the destiny and future of our people, upholding the banner of the revolution amid whatever complicated circumstances and vigorously advancing along the single path of socialism. For this reason, our people totally entrust the regime of the Republic led by the party and the leader with their destiny and future and cherish as their faith the fact that they can neither survive nor be happy without this regime. All party members and workers should more deeply cherish this faith, they have grasped through their experience in practical life, through the forthcoming election.

We should significantly greet the election by more firmly arming ourselves with our party's great *chuche* idea and by better preparing ourselves to be true *chuche*-type revolutionaries who think and act only according to the party's idea and intention. To achieve this goal, it is important for all the party members and working people to cherish deep in their hearts the great exploits of the party and the leader who have founded the most solid, superior, and viable socialist government. All party members and working people also should cherish the fact that the party's leadership, which is leading our government to victory without even the slightest deviation and stagnation, is wise.

Furthermore, the creation of never-ending upswings in socialist construction is an important way of cementing

the might of our people's government. This being the case, to effect a high degree of upswings in production in all sectors and units is the same as making a great contribution to greeting the upcoming elections as a great meaningful event.

We are now faced with such vast and rewarding tasks as increasing the production of power, coal, and steel products under the slogan that calls for maximum production and maximum conservation. Other tasks we are faced with include accelerating development in light industry and agriculture, and building many more dwellings.

With the felicitous elections just around the corner, all the party members and working people should make epochal headway in carrying out the party's plan for economic construction by making all the sectors give full play to collective innovation and mass heroism. A true and better way of rewarding the benevolence of the party and leader that have given us a benevolent people's government lies in achieving the loftiest form of labor exploits and scientific and technological successes and in informing the party of the victory.

In order to greet the elections of deputies to the SPA in a brilliant manner, it is imperative to enhance the role of the party organizations ever higher. The election of deputies to the SPA is a very important political work to which all the party organizations should pay party-minded attention.

Party organizations at all levels should deeply explain to the party members and working people the significance of the upcoming elections. The party organizations should subject the party members and working people to a great propaganda and agitation offensive designed to make them greet the elections with lofty political enthusiasm and labor exploits. In turn, this would make the entire nation seethe with an unusual political and ideological atmosphere.

In particular, they should make all the people deeply savor the happiness they enjoy under the most superior socialist system and people's government. Also, they should make the people devote themselves to strengthening and developing the Republic's government, and they should make everybody do their utmost in the struggle to glorify the Republic with practical successes by deeply inculcating in the masses the superiority of our country's socialist system and election system.

At the same time, it is equally important to deepen the party's guidance so as to enhance the function and role of the provincial, municipal, and county people's organs of power even higher and make our people's organs of power fulfill their duty as truthful public servants in name and deed.

Let us all harden rock-firm the revolutionary sovereign power of our workers and peasants and effect still greater upswings in socialist construction by greeting the elections of deputies to the SPA with lofty political and ideological enthusiasm and brilliant innovative successes.

Greetings Sent to Lao Revolutionary Party

*SK2203101190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT
22 Mar 90*

[Text] Pyongyang March 22 (KCNA)—Our party members and people extend fervent congratulations and greetings to the members of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) and her people on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the founding of the LPRP, says NODONG SINMUN, the organ of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The founding of the LPRP was a historical event for the Lao people who had undergone twists and turns because they lacked correct vanguard organisation of the working class, the paper notes.

Referring to the course covered by the LPRP over the last 35 years since its foundation, the author of an article of the paper says:

The Korean people are sincerely rejoiced over the achievements made by the LPRP in the revolution and construction.

Korea-Laos friendship is developing favourably day by day. The Korean people are convinced that the friendly and cooperative relations between our two parties, two countries and two peoples will further strengthen and develop in the common struggle for the victory of the cause of peace and socialism against imperialism.

The Korean people sincerely wish the LPRP members and Lao people greater success in their struggle to carry out the decisions of the 4th congress of the party.

Delegations Depart for Italy, France, Vietnam

*SK2203104590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1040 GMT
22 Mar 90*

[Text] Pyongyang March 22 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] headed by Kim Yong-sun, director of a department of the Central Committee of the WPK, to visit Italy and France, and a delegation of Korean social scientists headed by Kim Hwa-chong, vice-president of the Academy of Social Science, to visit Vietnam, left here on March 22 by plane.

New Ambassador to Ivory Coast Appointed

*SK2203104990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1041 GMT
22 Mar 90*

[Text] Pyongyang March 22 (KCNA)—Yi Chae-rim was appointed ambassador e.p. [extraordinary and plenipotentiary] of the DPRK to the Republic of the Ivory Coast, according to a decree of the Central People's Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Farms Set Up on Reclaimed Tideland*SK2303001690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1502 GMT
22 Mar 90*

[Text] Pyongyang March 22 (KCNA)—New farms are being built in the tideland-turned fields on the west coast of Korea.

The "November 10 state-run youth farm" has been set up and another farm is being built in the Taegyedo tideland-turned fields of 8,800 hectares in the coastal area of Yomju, North Pyongan Province.

Residential quarters have made appearance on farms and fields have been zoned so that each may occupy 25 hectares.

The Namchang, Yangji, Namhae, Chongdae, Sinpung and many other farms and workteams have been organized in the tideland-turned fields on the coast of South Hwanghae Province.

Hundreds of farms and workteams have appeared in the tideland, taking the country as a whole.

And the Yonbaek, Nampo and other salterns, scores of reservoirs and several fish breeding grounds have been built.

In this course one hundred and dozens of islands have been linked to the land, the coast line has been shortened by 600 kilometres and some 80 harbours have been moved to the deep sea.

Korea, setting itself the goal of reclaiming 300,000 hectares of tideland, has already laid solid material and technical foundations for attaining it.

The agro-irrigation institute, the tideland institute and the hydraulic engineering institute are successfully solving scientific and technological problems arising in the reclamation and operation of tideland.

Specialists and technicians are produced by tideland colleges and Hamhung University of Hydraulics.

Four general tideland reclamation companies equipped with powerful means of construction have its branches specialized in construction, structural parts production, rolling stock and shipping.

Besides, many soldiers and young people take part in the tideland reclamation.

The construction of setups in the reclaimed land is being stepped up by their sustained efforts in Kangryong, Ungdo and Kumsong to obtain thousands of hectares of arable land from each area.

The map of the country is changing with an extensive tideland reclamation.

'Pleasure Ground' Improved for Working People*SK2303055890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0441 GMT
23 Mar 90*

[Text] Pyongyang March 23 (KCNA)—The Majon pleasure ground, a scenic spot on the east coast of Korea, is being built better into a cultural, rest and tourist resort for the working people.

Three big ponds came into being some time ago.

A boating pond of 90,000 square metres, an angling pond and a lotus pool add to the landscape of the pleasure ground in harmony with sharp mountains around them, thick woods and pavilions of various types at the foot of mountains.

The pleasure ground will be furnished with all facilities necessary for the cultural and emotional life of the working people and school children. Scores of rest homes, pavilions, a folklore playground, an amusement centre, a fun fair for children, a children's union camp and a house of culture will be built.

The amusement centre of some 4,000 square metres will have a circular dancing hall, a banquet hall, a cinema house and several restaurants which serve Korean and foreign food.

A flower garden of about 100,000 square metres with some 300,000 flower trees of various species will be built up in the pleasure ground thick with pine trees which has a long beach along the seashore.

And table-tennis and billiard rooms and other sports facilities, an aquarium and a book reading room will be built.

An excellent anchorage will be built up in the pleasure ground for the convenience of visitors.

Greater Economic Construction Upsurge Urged*SK2303073590 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
0011 GMT 20 Mar 90*

[NODONG SINMUN 20 March editorial: "Let Us Effect Greater Upsurge in Socialist Construction With the Attitude of Being Alert and Mobilized"]

[Text] Today we are accelerating socialist construction amid an acute situation created by the new war provocation maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges. The prevailing situation and heavy revolutionary missions assigned us demand that all party members and workers vigorously carry out the struggle to effect a new great upsurge with the attitude of being alert and mobilized.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Political Bureau Presidium and secretary of the party Central Committee, has indicated: We should firmly defend the banner of socialism—the revolutionary banner—by crushing the

desperate offensive of the enemy and by continuously effecting upsurges in socialist construction.

It is a traditional trait of struggle to accelerate socialist construction overflowing with the revolutionary passion and militant spirit. Since the revolutionary tasks are enormous and the situation is strained, we should vigorously advance forward with a vigorous fighting spirit and passion.

It is an important factor for successfully accomplishing enormous tasks laid before us to live and work with the attitude of being alert and mobilized. Today our people, under the leadership of the party, are vigorously carrying out the struggle to occupy a new higher peak in socialist construction, to epochally upgrade the people's living standard, and to build a socialist paradise on the land of the fatherland.

In order for all the people to vigorously accelerate the speed of the nineties, they should energetically struggle with the revolutionary spirit and revolutionary passion so that the drum of revolution continuously and loudly resound across the country. That all people live and struggle in a revolutionary manner is a powerful method for smashing the enemy's desperate offensive.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique are running amok with the new war provocation maneuvers by staging the adventurous "Team Spirit-90" joint military exercise. In order to cope with the enemy's grave war provocation maneuvers, we should not cease the advance nor delay the speed of the march.

To cope with the prevailing situation with the initiative, all the people should heighten the revolutionary vigilance higher than ever before, and should more vigorously accelerate socialist construction with the united strength between the party and the revolutionary ranks.

As the situation becomes more acute, the party members and workers should have more solid resolution in order to live and fight according to the intentions of the party.

It is an essential demand of our party, which is carrying out the revolution, to accelerate the revolution and construction with revolutionary fighting spirit. Our party demands that although enormous tasks are laid before the revolution and the situation is complex, all the people firmly arm themselves with the *chuche* idea, strengthen the unity and cohesion of the party and the revolutionary ranks in every way, and accelerate the revolution and construction.

The unity and cohesion that are based on the *chuche* idea are the source of all victories of our revolution. All party members and workers should firmly arm themselves with the *chuche* idea, and they should live and struggle only according to its demand.

The *chuche* idea is an ideological weapon which enables the people, who are carrying out the revolution, to vigorously advance forward with firm conviction in their own strength and faith in certain victory. When one is

firmly armed with the *chuche* idea, one will have the firm belief in the justness of the revolutionary cause and conviction in victory, and will overflow with passion and spirit to devote oneself to the revolutionary struggle.

Deeply cherishing the pride in carrying out the revolution with the *chuche* idea, all party members and workers should make this idea their own bone and flesh, and firm faith. Thus, we should solve all problems raised in the revolution and construction in our own way.

Unity is a guarantee for our people, who are carrying out the revolution, to win all victories by always demonstrating the lofty passion and spirit. Because our people have this might, we can safeguard the revolutionary principle under any circumstance and can be victorious by overcoming all difficulties.

Deeply cherishing the lofty pride in having such great unity and cohesion, all party members and workers should more firmly unite themselves with the party and the leader ideologically and in terms of will. In particular, they should deeply cherish the lofty pride in implementing the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il's great economic construction plan, and should work with revolutionary passion and militant spirit. Thus, they should vigorously accelerate the socialist construction in firm unity and by helping and leading each other.

By cherishing revolutionary optimism and conviction in victory, party members and workers should work and live in a revolutionary manner. The militant spirit and revolutionary passion are to be formed on the basis of firm conviction in victory of the revolution. Today we have the refined leadership of the great party, a powerful main force of the revolution, superior *chuche*-oriented socialist system, and a mighty self-reliant socialist economy. As long as there is such indomitable might, there is no fortress we cannot occupy. The more the enemy strengthens its war maneuvers, the more soundly should we live with the spirit of crossing the blazing river of fire and advancing on the muddy road.

Our great revolutionary upsurge, which was registered in the course of advancing with the spirit of adding the speed battle to *chollima*, is attained on the basis of revolutionary optimism of our people who vigorously advanced by always deeply trusting our party and leader without a slight degree of hesitation and wavering in the face of difficulties.

All party members and workers should always recall the history of such great upsurge and, as in the past, should loudly sound the drum of great march overflowing with the faith in certain victory and revolutionary optimism. Thus, they should fiercely light the flames of the movement to create the new speed of the nineties.

With success in the struggle for production increase and conservation in all domains and all units, party members and workers should smash the wicked war maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges.

The revolutionary tasks which we carry out under such a strained situation as today is the same as a combat mission. In today's advance march of the nineties, the overfulfillment of assigned tasks for production increase and conservation and of combat targets put forward by the party means living and working with the attitude of being alert and mobilized, as well as defending the fatherland by smashing the enemy's war maneuvers.

Keenly realizing the significance and importance of the struggle for production increase and conservation, all party members and workers should actively strive to save even one kilowatt of electricity, one kilogram of coal and steel, and one gram of oil in all domains and all units of national economy, and should effectively use them.

By inspiring the masses' idea, functionaries of all domains and all units should actively wage the struggle to discover the reserves and to eliminate waste so that more reserves for production and conservation be discovered everywhere through technological innovations and precise economic calculation [kyongje kyesan] and that production be normalized at a high level. Thus, they should accomplish daily, monthly, and quarterly plans without fail.

Party organizations should aggressively carry out the organizational and political work so that party members and workers live and work in a revolutionary manner with lofty revolutionary consciousness and class awareness and with the attitude of being alert in conformity with the demand of the prevailing situation.

The revolutionary trait of struggle is to be formed when people are aware of the class basis [kyekupchok kunbon]. Party organizations should encourage party members and workers to deal with the enemy's war provocation maneuvers with lofty class consciousness and burning hostile feelings and to prepare themselves so that they can tenaciously fight against the rascals' maneuvers. In particular, party organizations should indoctrinate the new generations, who have not experienced the trial of revolution, so that they can uncompromisingly struggle against the class enemies by cherishing lofty class consciousness and awareness.

At the same time, we should see to it that all the people overflow with revolutionary passion and the entire nation seethe with a militant atmosphere so that erroneous trends contradicting the working class life-style can be eliminated.

Cherishing the conviction in and optimism for victory, all party members and workers should more highly demonstrate the revolutionary passion and militant spirit. Thus, they should effect greater innovations and upsurge in socialist construction.

South Korea

Ambassador-Level Ties Established With Bulgaria

SK2303100990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0911 GMT
23 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 23 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Bulgaria, expressing their desire to "develop mutually beneficial relations," established ambassador-level diplomatic ties Friday.

Korean Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung and his Bulgarian counterpart, Boyko Dimitrov, signed the joint declaration governing diplomatic relations, which took effect as soon as it was signed. The declaration said that the two countries have agreed to "develop mutually beneficial relations and cooperation between the two countries on the basis of respect of the principles of international law and the charter of the United Nations."

The two foreign ministers also signed an accord on economic, scientific and technical cooperation, and agreements on investment guarantee and prevention of double taxation are expected to be concluded in the near future, the Korean Foreign Ministry said. The two nations will open embassies in Seoul and Sofia as soon as possible, it added. Korea already has diplomatic ties with Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia in Eastern Europe.

The Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (Kotra) opened a trade center in Sofia in April last year, and the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry opened its office in Seoul last July. Korean exports to Bulgaria last year amounted to 17.84 million U.S. dollars, up 220 percent from 5.54 million dollars in 1988, while imports last year stood at 11.1 million dollars, up 207 percent from 3.62 million dollars in 1988. Korea has exported color TV sets, tires, videotape recorders and Braun [television] tubes to Bulgaria while importing leaf tobacco and synthetic fuel.

Reportage on Kim Yong-sam's Visit to Moscow

Gorbachev Meeting Analyzed

SK2203095490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0857 GMT
22 Mar 90

[By Hong Sang-pyo]

[Excerpts] Seoul, March 22 (Yonhap)—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev gave relations between South Korea and the Soviet Union a gigantic boost Wednesday, when he and a visiting Korean politician huddled unexpectedly behind closed doors for 50 minutes with only an interpreter for company.

The unscheduled tete-a-tete raised the possibility of opening diplomatic ties between Seoul and Moscow earlier than expected.

Kim Yong-sam, a co-leader of the Ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) and top favorite to succeed President No Tae-u as head of the government, met with Gorbachev in the Kremlin for about 50 minutes to discuss normalization of bilateral ties and economic cooperation, according to news reports from Moscow.

Kim would neither confirm nor deny that the meeting had taken place on the grounds that he had promised the Kremlin not to make public whom he had met.

The meeting, although both sides are apparently trying to play it down, is a very meaningful event because of the sensitivity of recent developments toward upgrading ties between the two nations, observers say. [passage omitted]

Kim reportedly gave Gorbachev a message from No expressing his hope for a summit to discuss normalizing ties and promoting economic and trade cooperation. [passage omitted]

The Soviet Union, aware of the position taken by North Korea toward the South, has balked at official contacts with Seoul on a political level although non-political ties, especially in trade and economy, have been substantially upgraded. [passage omitted]

Meeting Augurs Earlier Ties

SK2303024490 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 23 Mar 90 p 2

[News analysis: "Kim-Gorbachev Talks Augur Earlier Ties"]

[Text] Moscow—The unprecedented meeting between Kim Yong-sam, a co-leader of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev Wednesday here indicates that the establishment of diplomatic relations between Seoul and Moscow may be possible in the near future.

The meeting symbolizes Gorbachev's determination to set up diplomatic relations with Korea despite several barriers including objections from north Korea.

The meeting was unprecedented not only because it took place in the absence of diplomatic relations between the two countries but also since it came at the request of Gorbachev.

"Gorbachev declared his determination to the world by inviting Kim to his Kremlin office," a Korean official who is accompanying Kim here says.

Aleksandr Yakovlev, a top foreign policy adviser to Gorbachev, also hinted that the decision has been already made inside the Soviet Union on normalization of ties with Korea.

He told reporters after a meeting with Kim that there are conflicting views in both countries on the issue but made it clear that there is basically no barrier that is impossible to overcome.

"What is left is when the two countries will set up diplomatic relations, but several barriers still need to be overcome," said Yakovlev.

There is no doubt that the decision by the Soviets on ties with Korea will surely advance the establishment of diplomatic relations between Korea and the Soviet Union.

"The meeting will provide a breakthrough," another Korean official said, adding that the two countries may set up diplomatic relations by the end of this year.

Both the Korean and Soviet sides are reluctant to reveal what was discussed during the Kim-Gorbachev meeting at the Kremlin. Kim is expected to disclose the topics of discussion when he gets to Tokyo or when he arrives home.

It is known here that the two exchanged views on a wide range of topics of mutual concern including normalization of ties, ways to promote economic cooperation, Korea's admission to the United Nations, and ways to ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula and achieve peace in East Asia. These issues are likely to be discussed in greater detail next month when Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung meets his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze during a special session of the U.N. General Assembly.

The Kim-Gorbachev meeting has made likelier a Choe-Shevardnadze meeting at the United Nations despite the Korean government's repeated denials. The improving relations between Korea and the Soviet Union also indicate a considerable change in the international politics surrounding the Korean Peninsula, which was divided after World War II due to an ideological confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Although ideological confrontation on the peninsula has been stepped up by north Korea, the new relations between Seoul and Moscow will surely cause Pyongyang to review its closed-door policy and therefore, contribute to formation of conditions favorable to better relations between south and north Korea and ultimate unification.

Officials here also expect Gorbachev's open declaration of support for normalized ties between Korea and the Soviet Union to positively affect Korea's future relations with China, which remains the closest ally of north Korea.

Regional Role Seen for USSR

SK2303132990 Seoul YONHAP in English 1259 GMT
23 Mar 90

[Text] Moscow, March 23 (YONHAP)—Government officials and politicians in South Korea hope the United States and Japan will improve their relations with North Korea and they support this rapprochement, a co-leader of Korea's ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) said Friday.

Just as the Soviet Union can strengthen and upgrade relations with South Korea while maintaining friendly relations with North Korea, the United States and Japan can improve relations with North Korea without hurting

their friendly relations with South Korea, Kim Yong-sam, who is visiting the Soviet capital at the invitation of the Institute for World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO), told a seminar sponsored jointly by IMEMO and DLP officials.

Without strengthening and upgrading Seoul-Moscow relations, peace in Northeast Asia cannot be guaranteed, Kim said, asking the Soviet Union to play a leading role in solving the "abnormal and unnatural relations" among nations in Northeast Asia.

Following the seminar, Kim visited Moscow State University to give a speech on "the New Relationship Between the Soviet Union and Korea in the 21st Century." Noting that bilateral exchanges, two-way trade in particular, have increased dramatically in recent years, he said there are still many barriers and obstacles to be overcome such as red tape and complicated trade procedures. Investment guarantees, prevention of double taxation and the assurance of the convertibility of the ruble are among the important issues to be addressed in the future, Kim said. He said establishment of diplomatic relations between the two nations at an early date is necessary to tackle these issues.

"Moreover, Korea hopes to maintain not only bilateral relations with the Soviet Union but also multilateral relations among the nations of Northeast Asia as well as the United States, Japan and other Pacific Basin countries," Kim said.

The Korean leader said, "Economic cooperation between the two nations rests on a foundation of complementarity between their industrial structures and production categories, and not on competition."

The Soviet Union has developed basic science and technology, along with aerospace technology, energy, heavy industry and metallurgy, whereas Korea has acquired experience in applying science and technology to such industries as shipbuilding, chemicals, steel, automobiles, electrical engineering and the service sector, he said.

The Korean construction industry could help the Soviet Union build vital infrastructure by participating in highway, dam and housing projects, Kim said.

Trip May Prompt Ties

SK2303030890 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 23 Mar 90 p 8

[Editorial: "Kim Yong-sam in Moscow"]

[Text] The current visit by Rep. Kim Yong-sam to the Soviet Union is significant in that his is the first virtually official mission of the ruling party and the government of Seoul headed by such a weighty political figure. Kim went there in the capacity of a co-leader of the Democratic Liberal Party that was born out of the merger of three parties. Inclusion of a cabinet officer in charge of political and parliamentary affairs in the Korean delegation lends further official color and weight to the visit.

During his talks with Aleksandr Yakovlev, a member of the Soviet Communist Party Politburo responsible for external affairs and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's top aid on foreign policy, Kim proposed a summit between President No Tae-u and Gorbachev.

The desire of the Korean government to normalize relations with Moscow was conveyed to the Soviet side in the interest of increased bilateral cooperation in the fields of diplomacy, economy and culture. An unconfirmed report has it that Kim had a rendezvous with the top Soviet leader early yesterday.

These and other brisk contacts and dialogue taking place between visiting Koreans and Soviet officials indicate that the Soviet Union is responsive to our approach. But the free exchange of amenities and responsiveness on the surface must be matched by practical steps toward fair, open and regularized relations.

Moscow's clear stand on Seoul cannot be defined without an explicit change in its attitude toward Pyongyang, which has yet to budge an inch from its isolationist and militant line. Greater caution and broader perspective are required of our delegations not to indulge in wishful thinking or hasty ventures.

Kim's trip to Moscow could provide a powerful impetus to evolving a constructive and mutually rewarding relationship if the Soviet Union comes forward to reciprocate.

Role of Soviets in Korean War Reported

SK2303031890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0246 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 23 (OANA-YONHAP)—Without Soviet support, the Chinese and North Korean forces could not have fought the war in the Korean war, a Soviet historian was quoted as contending. Radio Moscow in the first detailed disclosure by the Soviet Union of its role in the war said Wednesday the Soviet Union came to the assistance of North Korea during the Korean war with 70,000 Air Force personnel and had ground forces comprising five armored divisions on standby at one time during the war.

It is the first detailed statement by the Soviets on their participation in the Korean war, which broke out in June 1950 and ended with an armistice signed in July 1953 by the United Nations Command, North Korea and China.

A Soviet pilot named Georgiy Bludmirov, a veteran of the Korean war, disclosed in the broadcast that the Soviet Air Force personnel were fighter pilots, technicians and anti-aircraft batteries, and the armored troops were at the ready in case the North Korean Army was in trouble, said Seoul's NAEWOE PRESS, which specializes in communist affairs, quoting Radio Moscow.

Bludmirov, now a historian, also said the Soviet Union sent military advisory groups and munitions during the war.

He said Soviet fighters shot down 1,200 to 1,300 enemy planes from October 1950 until the end of the war in July 1953, NAEWOE reported quoting Radio Moscow.

Another Air Force officer who fought in the war, Yerji Nobobz [name as received], said 12 Soviet Air Force divisions took part in the war by turns and that the main task of the Soviet fighters was to protect the communist forces from U.S. air raids.

The Soviet fighters, MiG-15s and MiG-15DCs, covered not only northeastern China but also all the battle lines across the Korean peninsula, and several times they harassed U.S. fighters bombing Supung power station, then the biggest North Korean hydro-electric power station, on the border with China, Nobobz was quoted as saying.

The MiGs were highly competitive with the F-86 Sabers used by the U.S. Air Force in both technical and strategic capability, and were better than their U.S. opponents in equipment, he said.

The Soviets taught the Chinese and North Korean pilots how to operate jets during the war, and as a result they began flying the jet fighters for themselves in 1952, the two former Soviet Air Force officers said.

At the outbreak of the war, they said, North Korea had its own air force, suggesting that North Korea had been strengthening its military in preparation for the surprise attack upon South Korea.

On March 14, in another program on Radio Moscow, Bludmirov mentioned the Soviet role in the Korean war in passing, saying that 21 pilots who flew in the war had been honored as "heroes."

Foreign Minister Interviewed on CSSR Ties

*SK2303045390 Seoul Television Service in Korean
1200 GMT 22 Mar 90*

[Interview with Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung in Prague by Seoul Television Anchorman Pak Song-pom in Seoul studio—recorded]

[Text] [Pak Song-pom] I am going to connect with Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung, who is staying in Prague after signing a protocol for the establishment of diplomatic relations with Czechoslovakia. We are going to hear on his views on the significance of such diplomatic relations.

How are you Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung? Thank you very much for allowing us to hold this interview despite your busy schedule.

What is your opinion on the significance of establishing diplomatic relations with Czechoslovakia?

[Choe Ho-chung] I came to Czechoslovakia through Yugoslavia, and signed a protocol. A while ago, Hungarian and Polish delegations came to Seoul and signed

protocols on diplomatic relations. I, as foreign minister of the Republic of Korea, came to the soil of a communist country in East Europe and personally signed the protocol for establishing diplomatic relations. I think this has new significance.

Furthermore, as for Czechoslovakia, we wanted diplomatic relations with Czechoslovakia, but it expressed a more active position on this issue than we did. This means that our northern policy is establishing deep roots in this area.

[Pak] You talked about deep roots taking place there. Yet, there are East Germany, Albania, and Romania which have not established diplomatic relations with us. What is your view on this?

[Choe] As for Romania, we have almost reached an agreement on Romania sending a delegation to Seoul late this month to hold negotiations on diplomatic relations. I believe that through such negotiations, diplomatic relations will be established between Romania and us in the near future. As for East Germany, elections were just held on 18 March. Thus, I hope our negotiations will begin in a more stabilized situation. In conclusion, I predict that diplomatic relations with these two nations will be established sooner or later.

As for Albania, no contact has been made between the two sides up to now. I think there is no need for us to make haste on this matter.

[Pak] There was a rumor that we paid some financial aid including the offering of funds to the OECD for the purpose of establishing diplomatic relations with East European countries. Will you explain more about the course of establishing diplomatic relations with these nations?

[Choe] I can clearly state that we have never offered any loans or suggested any preconditions for diplomatic relations with East European countries. However, as for the case of Hungary, this country is the first nation in East Europe with which we established diplomatic relations, and Hungary played the role of a pioneer. Thus, we felt it was necessary for us to show a certain degree of sincerity [onujongdoui songui] and an active attitude toward it. It is true that we gave a word about active encouragement of bank loans and advance of civilian enterprises. However, for those other than Hungary, we have never put forward any precondition for negotiations. It is true that these countries are holding earnest expectations for economic cooperation with our country and promotion of trade with us. Therefore, I think we should develop fruitful and substantive cooperative relations, not merely maintaining diplomatic relations. To do this, active advance of our civilian enterprises should be encouraged. Accordingly, when I return to Seoul, I intend to encourage our civilian enterprises to advance into these countries.

[Pak] You, Minister Choe, have said before that you will strive to promptly settle the issue of establishing diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and China. We also think that the prospect is very bright. Is there any change in your view on diplomatic relations with these nations?

[Choe] My view has been prompted by the international trend. Coming to East Europe, I again realized that no one and no country can block such a torrential international trend. Thus, I firmly believe that we will finally see the day when we establish diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and China, even though we are not hasty. But we should not remain in passive attitude of merely waiting for such a day to come. We should make efforts to establish diplomatic relations with them as soon as possible, even with the support of other countries that extend encouragement and cooperation to us.

[Pak] This question may overlap the previous one. Do you think it is possible to establish diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and China within this year?

[Pak] We hope so. We should make all efforts to do so.

Moscow Aviation Pact To Take Effect 30 Mar

SK2303062490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0555 GMT
22 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 23 (OANA-YONHAP)—An aviation agreement between Korean Air (KAL) and the state-run Soviet airline Aeroflot took effect Thursday, and the first flight between Seoul and Moscow will be March 30, the Foreign Ministry said Friday.

"The Korean and Soviet Governments have agreed to give mutual approval to the civil agreement, instead of contracting another government-based agreement," said a ministry official.

Under the agreement, KAL will have two flights a week between Moscow and Seoul from March 31, and Aeroflot from March 30.

KAL flights between Seoul and Europe will begin using the short cut through Soviet airspace from Sunday.

The Korean consular department in Moscow and the Soviet Civil Aviation Ministry approved Feb. 12 the aviation agreement, signed by the two airlines in mid-February, the official said.

YONHAP Carries ROK-USSR Trade Figures

SK2303072890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0630 GMT
23 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 23 (YONHAP)—South Korea exported mainly consumer goods and ships to the Soviet Union and imported mostly raw materials such as pig iron and nickel ingots last year, the International Private Economic Council of Korea (IPECK) said Friday.

Exports to the Soviet Union amounted to 208 million U.S. dollars and imports to 392 million dollars last year, incurring a 184 million dollar trade deficit, according to IPECK.

Textiles took the lion's share of exports with 41.4 million dollars during January-November last year, up 280 percent from 14.5 million dollars in the same period in 1988, followed by shipbuilding and ship repair with 28.4 million dollars, the report said.

Electric and electronic goods accounted for 13.7 million dollars in the 11 months, almost a 30-fold increase from a year earlier; machinery, 11 million dollars; soap, 6.8 million dollars; and tooth paste, 2.45 million dollars.

Korea imported 68.8 million dollars worth of pig iron from the Soviet Union during the period, an 11-fold rise from 1988, and 32.7 million dollars worth of nickel ingots, 4.2-fold increase, it said.

Raw cotton amounted to 10.7 million dollars, a 3.5-fold rise, fisheries products to 61.8 million dollars, a two-fold rise, coal to 44.9 million dollars and timber, pulp and fertilizer to 14.2 million dollars, according to the report.

This trend is seen as a good sign that trade between the two countries will continue to grow sharply, the report added.

Soviets To Grant Permission for Trade Offices

SK2303071490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0652 GMT
23 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 23 (OANA-YONHAP)—Three trading arms of South Korean conglomerates will receive official Soviet permission on Saturday to open branch offices in Moscow.

Daewoo, Samsung and Lucky-Goldstar will join Hyundai in setting up branch offices in Moscow. Hyundai opened its office earlier this month, when Hyundai founder Chong Chu-yong visited the Soviet capital.

The four received informal approval for the branches in January.

The permits will be handed to the heads of the business groups by Vladimir Golanov, first vice president of the Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who arrived here Thursday.

Golanov, who also heads the Soviet-Korea Economic Cooperation Council, is leading the 20-member Soviet delegation to the 2nd South Korea-Soviet joint businessmen's meeting on March 22-28.

USSR-U.S.-ROK Economic Ventures Announced

SK2303073090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0626 GMT
23 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 23 (YONHAP)—South Korea's Lucky-Goldstar Business Group concluded a protocol on

business opportunities and a memorandum of understanding Friday with the U.S. conglomerate Bechtel Group and Izhorsky-Zavod Production Association of the Soviet Union to jointly participate in several construction projects in the Soviet Union, a Lucky Group spokesman said.

Lucky Development Co., the Lucky Group's construction arm, will build an electronics factory and a hotel in Leningrad with Bechtel and Izhorsky in the first stage of the project, he said. Officials of the Korean and U.S. companies will enter the Soviet Union about March 30 for further talks on implementing the projects, he said. The trio will cooperate in development of forests, marine products, non-ferrous metals and coal as well as in construction projects, including a world trade center, apartments and petrochemical plants, in the Soviet Union. In addition, they expect to expand their partnership into commerce and trade, he said.

Irina Kostenko, deputy chairman of the Soviet Foreign Economic Cooperation Bank who arrived here March 14 with the Izhorsky team, said her bank was willing to support the projects, he said.

Soviet Official Arrives, Discusses Cooperation

SK2203135990 Seoul YONHAP in English 1303 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 22 (YONHAP)—South Korean and Soviet businessmen will discuss Seoul's participation in the development of Siberia and scientific and technological cooperation during the second joint meeting of bilateral economic cooperation councils opening here Friday, chief delegate from Moscow said Thursday.

Vladimir Golanov, chairman of the Soviet-side council, during a press conference at Kimpo International Airport upon arrival, said, "We have brought a few concrete projects this time. There will be discussions regarding South Korea's active participation in the development of the Soviet Far Eastern region and cooperation in the fields of science and technology, for instance."

Golanov, first vice president of the Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry, declined to elaborate further and said the details of the projects will be made public during the joint meeting.

He is heading a 20-member Soviet delegation which include Thomas Alibegov [name as received], vice chairman of the Soviet Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs, and Victor Koptevsky [name as received], chief of general economic relations with Asian countries at the Ministry for External Economic Affairs.

"So far, bilateral economic cooperation has been discussed between economic organizations and semi-governmental bodies focusing on improvement of environment for cooperation and, beginning this year, businesses from both countries will take initiative in practical discussion of concrete projects," Golanov said.

He appraised that the mutual cooperation has been satisfactory judging from the gradual increase in two-way trade and was beneficial to both sides.

Asked about the signing of the accord to guarantee Korean businesses' investment and ways to send gains from the investment back to Seoul, Golanov said the issues will be taken up at the meeting but specific agreements will not be reached right now.

The Soviet delegates have discussed Japanese firms' participation in the Siberian development while they were staying in Japan prior to the Seoul visit.

After the general meeting, there will be three committee meetings on trade, industry and investment and finance Friday. The Soviet delegates are scheduled to visit the Economic Planning Board and the Trade-Industry Ministry later in the day. They will make an observation tour of major industrial complexes in provincial areas on March 25-27. The Soviet delegation will leave Seoul Wednesday after adopting a joint statement and a press conference winding up the week-long visit.

Attache Dispatched to Beijing for Asian Games

SK2303100690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0915 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 23 (YONHAP)—South Korea will dispatch Yun Hae-chung, a consultant to the Korean Olympic Committee (KOC), to Beijing in April as official attache for the Beijing Asian Games in September.

KOC notified China of its selection of Yun as attache on Friday. Yun will be in charge of liaison work between the Korean team and the Beijing Asian Games Organizing Committee (BAGOC) during the Asiad, according to a KOC official.

Yun will prepare for Seoul's participation in the Asian Games and attend a conference of attaches.

Beijing, which does not have diplomatic ties with Seoul, sent attaches to the 1986 Asian Games and the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul.

North Proposal for Wall Inspection Rejected

SK2303114390 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 1000 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] Today, North Korea sent our side a letter proposing that, in order to inspect the concrete wall, a joint inspection team be formed by the representatives of the authorities and political parties of the North and South, and that an inspection be conducted on the spot on 30 March. In this letter, North Korea also proposed that around three working-level officials from the authorities and political parties of the two sides contact each other at 0100 GMT on 28 March at the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Panmunjom.

In connection with this, (Choe Pyong-po), a spokesman for the National Unification Board, said that the North

Korean side demands the joint inspection into and removal of the concrete wall because it intends to pass responsibility for the fact that it cannot make reforms and open its doors onto our side. He said that the North Korean side's proposal is not worth consideration.

'Harmonious' Relations Necessary for Growth

SK2203015690 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 22 Mar 90 p 8

[Text] One of the main tasks entrusted to the new cabinet is revitalization of the sagging national economy. The reformation of the cabinet affected most of the portfolios related to the economy including the minister of economic planning, who heads the team of top economic administrators.

The people are looking forward to seeing some reform measures adopted and enforced to bolster the nation's economy, which is plagued by rising prices and falling exports that upset the viability and growth potential of the country. At the same time, they neither desire nor expect any kind of shock remedy which might disrupt the consistency of economic policy.

We refuse to subscribe to the dichotomic way of thinking that pits growth against stability as some analysts and theoreticians are wont to do. In reality, the two concepts are mutually complementary and reinforcing. They should not be likened to the impossible feat of killing two birds with one stone. The actual fact of the matter is that neither bird could be killed separately.

The projected annual growth target of 6.5 percent for 1990 might be regarded as conservative or merely adequate. The

new economic cabinet members appear to belong to the ambitious school in favor of higher growth fueled by positive measures for stimulating business and industry.

It is quite likely that some changes will be introduced to buoy up business in terms of interest, bank credits and foreign exchange. Such reforms are bound to affect the prices of commodities, international balance of payments and employment, which have a direct bearing on the growth of the national economy.

Brisk exports are essential for growth. Further diversification of overseas markets is needed to avert increased trade tension with such major trading partners as the United States and members of the European Community.

Increased emphasis on growth is natural and timely in light of the languishing economy in the last couple of years. But a vigorous search for growth should be made in a way that would not dilute the commitment of the current government to achieving equity and justice in the distribution of wealth to promote the welfare of the poor and strengthen the integrity of society.

There exist misgivings about the resolve of the new economic ministers on carrying out the proposed reform programs with regard to the inhibition of excessive private land ownership and open banking transactions. On this score they ought to reaffirm their policy to assure the general public.

Efficient and harmonious coordination between governmental departments is important to work out and implement balanced economic programs aimed at achieving steady growth based on stability.

Burma

Elections Commission on Free, Fair Elections

BK2203063190 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Excerpts] U San Maung, Saya Chai, and Secretary U Aye Maung, members of the Union of the Myanmar [Burma] Commission for Holding Multiparty Democratic General Elections, held a coordination meeting with members of the Elections Subcommittee, township zone elections subcommissions, and township election subcommissions of Bago Division at 0930 today in the conference hall of the Bago Division General Administrator's Office to coordinate matters related to the general election. [passage omitted]

Speaking at the meeting, U San Maung said the commission and its subcommissions are carrying out their work according to the election timetable, and the work is 100 percent successful. He explained that the work that remains to be done before the 27 May 1990 elections consists of printing and distributing ballot sheets, assigning duties to polling booth officers, acquiring expertise, and building polling booths. He added that the ballot sheets are being printed and this work is 70 percent completed; the ballot sheets will be sent to districts on time. [passage omitted]

Next, Saya Chai said that some foreigners and organizations are saying that organizations from abroad should be invited to the country during the multiparty democratic general elections. He noted that general elections have been held in Myanmar since the time of the national leader General Aung San, but no people or organizations have ever been invited to witness elections. The general elections are an internal affair and do not concern people from abroad. The voters will decide whether the elections are free and fair. He added that the commission has made arrangements on all fronts according to law to ensure the multiparty democratic general elections are free and fair. He said that 2,308 candidates, including candidates from 93 political parties and independent candidates, are running in the elections, and the state is currently allowing candidates from the 93 political parties to deliver campaign speeches on the Voice of Myanmar radio and on Myanmar Television Service free of charge during an allotted time every night. It is also known to all that the state newspapers carry campaign speeches free of charge.

Continuing, he said that when the commission was first formed, some countries and people abroad did not seem to trust the commission to hold multiparty democratic general elections. Even after the commission has announced an election date and has begun carrying out its work according to the election timetable and program, some people abroad are saying that the general elections are unlikely to be free and fair. They are making these unfounded, fabricated statements because they have not been able to extend their influence. They could eventually undermine the general elections with

their instigations. We must be very cautious and ignore what they say. We should just go ahead with our task, responsibly and correctly.

Speaking about the situation regarding candidates running in the forthcoming general elections, Saya Chai said a total of 2,308 candidates will be running in 486 People's Assembly constituencies and two to 14 candidates will be running in each constituency. The fact that candidates from political parties and independent candidates are running in the elections is concrete proof that they believe the elections will be free and fair. The commission has also made arrangements on all fronts to ensure that the forthcoming elections will be recorded in the country's history as genuinely free and fair elections. [passage omitted] The coordination meeting ended at 1200.

Paper Reports 43 Rebels Killed in Attack on Ye

OW2303080690 Tokyo KYODO in English
0742 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] Yangon, March 23 KYODO—Fifty people, including 43 rebels, were killed in clashes with government troops in Ye, a town about 250 kilometers southeast of Yangon [Rangoon], reports said Friday.

The state-owned WORKING PEOPLES DAILY said an estimated 300 opposition New Mon State Party (NMSP) rebels attacked the town of Ye before dawn Thursday and fighting between rebels and government forces lasted for six hours.

Four government soldiers and three civilians—two women and a child—were also killed in the attack.

The party's stronghold at Three Pagoda Pass on the Thai Border 50 kilometers east of Ye was captured by government troops in February.

Since the fall of Three Pagoda Pass, rebels have sporadically attacked government outposts, seaside resorts and transportation.

The attack on Ye is the largest rebel retaliation in recent months.

Cambodia

Heng Samrin Greets French Socialist Party

BK2203050890 Phnom Penh SPK in English
0414 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 22—Heng Samrin, general secretary of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee, has sent a message of congratulations to the French Socialist Party on its national congress.

The message reads: "On behalf of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea and in my own name, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the national congress of the

French Socialist Party, and my sincere greetings to the leadership of the party, to First Secretary Pierre Moroy, and all members of the party and the whole population of France.

"I am firmly convinced that in the light of the congress's resolutions, the French socialists will do their best to promote democracy and welfare among the labouring people, thus contributing to the well-being of mankind, peace and security in the world".

The message concludes by wishing the national congress of the French Socialist Party success.

Sin Song Promotes Banteay Meanchey Police

*BK2103072090 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 2300 GMT 20 Mar 90*

[Text] A ceremony was held in Banteay Meanchey Province on 15 March under the chairmanship of Comrade General Sin Song, alternate member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of interior, to confer medals on and award promotions to the provincial police forces' units and officers who have been outstanding on the front line. After reading the decree by the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers, Comrade Gen. Sin Song promoted five police officers to the rank of lieutenant and six others to the rank of sublieutenant. He awarded 12 second class army medals from the Council of Ministers to distinguished units and individuals as well as 13 first class, 26 second class, and 43 third class national defense medals to a group of individuals.

On the occasion, Comrade Gen. Sin Song extolled the provincial police forces for their great courage and heroism in constantly exerting unstinting efforts to carry out the struggle to defend the motherland, ensuring security for the people. For his part, Comrade Um Sarit, member of the party Central Committee and secretary of the Banteay Meanchey provincial party committee, vowed to resolutely uphold the fighting spirit in order to self-reliantly safeguard and preserve the motherland and social gains. He thanked the party and government for their continuous care and assistance to the army, police, and all people in the province.

Ministry of Trade Issues Report on Rice Sales

*BK2103051690 Phnom Penh SPK in English
0407 GMT 21 Mar 90*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 21—Cambodian peasants had by mid-March this year sold 229,145 tons of surplus rice to the state, or 57 percent of the target, according to a report by the Ministry of Trade. This represented an increase of 30,650 tons over the same period last year.

Taking the lead in this rice sale were the provinces of Kompong Cham and Svay Rieng, exceeding their plans by 26 and 12 percent respectively. Next came the provinces of Koh Kong, Mondolkiri, Siem Reap, Kratie, Kompong Thom, Preah Vihear and Kompong Som City,

each achieving 60 to 83 percent of the quota while Battambang and Prey Veng delivered 36,500 and 11,000 tons, or 50 and 25 percent respectively.

Meanwhile, much attention has also been paid to rice transporting. So far, about 28 percent of the total of purchased rice has been moved to storehouses due to shortage of transport means.

Son Sann Addresses Nation, Calls for Compromise

*BK2303092890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer
in Cambodian 0430 GMT 23 Mar 90*

["Message from His Excellency Son Sann, chairman of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and prime minister of the Cambodian national government, to monks and compatriots before leaving Bangkok on 18 March to attend the celebrations of Namibia's independence"—recorded]

[Summary] "This coming 21 March, Namibia will hold a solemn ceremony to celebrate its Independence Day." Namibia's independence was achieved because the United Nations gave all kinds of help. Now that it has achieved independence, Namibia will soon have a seat in the United Nations. The United Nations is very experienced in helping bring peace to many countries, not just Namibia. Now that Namibia has become peaceful, how about our Cambodia? True, it is more difficult to settle the Cambodian problem than the Namibian problem because there are four parties involved in the Cambodian problem. However, the two nationalist parties—Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's side and the KPNLF [Khmer People's National Liberation Front]—have always compromised to prevent international friends from growing tired of helping us.

All the obstacles and differences at the Paris international conference and even at the recent meeting in Jakarta were not caused by the two nationalist parties. They were all caused by the other two communist parties which have never been on good terms. They do not even want to talk to one another. Moreover, one of these parties has listened too much to the Vietnamese and desires to seek a solution only through military means with the assistance of Vietnamese troops. "This party is currently seeking only to kill the Cambodian people in Phnom Penh, in Cambodia, by forcing them to serve the army and to fight against the Cambodian resistance forces."

Since the two nationalist parties have agreed to let the United Nations come to help settle the Cambodian problem for us, I would like to appeal to the other two non-nationalist Cambodian factions for the four of us to ask the United Nations to come help us arrange general and free elections in our country. "The Cambodian problem can be settled through, first of all, the withdrawal of all Vietnamese forces, both the army combatants and the Vietnamese immigrants who used to be soldiers, under the supervision of the United Nations.

This is one condition to be settled. Second is the disarming of the armed forces of the four Cambodian factions. This is necessary so that in the elections the Cambodian people will not be pressured by anyone. Since there will then be no pressure from the Vietnamese, all the Cambodian factions should be disarmed so that our people can vote freely in the elections without being coerced by anyone. We then should ask the United Nations, which is very experienced, to help preserve peace for us and to see that no party can seize power by force of arms. Third, we should ask the United Nations and the international community, including the five superpowers, to guarantee Cambodia's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity and ensure that the Cambodian people will enjoy the right to decide Cambodia's destiny by themselves through a free election to be organized fairly and without siding with any party by the United Nations. This is a correct solution in line with the democratic system, in which there will be neither fighting nor death among Cambodians. This is the peaceful solution we want to the Cambodian problem.

"I would like to call on all compatriots inside the country to beg all leaders of the four Cambodian factions to reach a compromise somewhere so that the United Nations and the five superpowers trying to help us will not get fed up with us, so that they will realize that we also want peace. We should show them that we also love our country and our compatriots. This is why we have asked them to help restore peace for us and settle our Cambodian problem as I have informed all the venerable monks and compatriots above.

"I would like also to take this opportunity to bid farewell to all venerable monks and compatriots as I will soon go abroad to ask those who pity us to help seek a peaceful solution as soon as possible so that our Cambodian people inside the country will not suffer too long. Once again, I would like to call on any party which wants to fight on to please stop doing so. Please stop massacring our own race. Thank you."

KPNLF Report Includes SRV Casualties

BK2303090790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] According to a report from the General Staff of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF], on 28 February, a number of KPNLF combatants in the 1st Military Region attacked a position of the Vietnamese-Heng Samrin soldiers in Ta Ben village, Thmar Puok District, Battambang Province. After fighting for an hour and 25 minutes, they killed or wounded a number of Vietnamese-Heng Samrin soldiers.

According to the same report, on 1 March, KPNLF combatants in the 7th Military Region attacked positions of Vietnamese-Heng Samrin soldiers in Kamnop and Ka Kaoh in Thmar Puok District of Battambang Province. After fighting for one and a half hour, they

killed or wounded a number of Vietnamese-Heng Samrin soldiers; seized an AK-47 and destroyed two T-54 tanks, three ZEL trucks, two 82-mm mortars, three 60-mm mortars, two 12.7-mm machine guns, and a 15-meter-long ammunition depot.

Armed Vietnamese Reported Found in Provinces

BK2103062990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 21 Mar 90

[All numbers as heard]

[Text] Reports reaching the VOK newsroom say that secret sources recently uncovered camps of armed Vietnamese nationals in Kompong Cham and Kratie Provinces and near the Cambodian-Vietnamese border with a total of about 10,000 armed Vietnamese nationals. The secret sources say 6,000 Vietnamese troops were found in camps near the Cambodian-Thai border in Kompong Cham Province, while about 7,000 armed Vietnamese nationals were found in Snuol District, Kratie Province. Hundreds more armed Vietnamese nationals were also found in Stung Treng Province. The same sources also say that troops of the Vietnamese-Heng Samrin regime currently have low morale and that Vietnamese troops are the backbone forces that continue to fight against the Cambodian resistance movement.

Two Communes, 13 Villages 'Liberated'

BK2303051090 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] On 9 March, our Cambodian national resistance forces routed and completely liberated the following two Vietnam-puppet communes in Phnum Sruoch District, Northwest Phnom Penh battlefield: Ta Sal and Sangke Katop. We killed one enemy soldier and wounded another, and we seized 17 AK's, 28 SKS's, two CK rifles, and some ammunition and war materiel. We also liberated the following 13 villages: Chaong Maong, O Phdau, Samakki, Prey Mean, Rong Masin, Stoeng Srat, Kaoh Run, Anlung Sangke, Ta Sal, Pring Kaong, Ta Menh, Tang Sraeung, and Chamka Trung. And we liberated 18 village and commune officials and five Cambodian soldiers.

SRV Division Said Involved in Route 10 Battle

BK2303030490 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 22 Mar 90

[["Special Report"]]

[Excerpt] In recent tenacious, arduous fighting on the Route 10 battlefield, the existing and fresh Vietnamese troops as well as the puppet soldiers suffered heavy losses of men, including those killed, wounded, or sick, and those who deserted.

On the afternoon of 18 March, the Vietnamese commander attached to Battambang Province asked the Vietnamese commander in Phnom Penh for planes to evacuate the Vietnamese soldiers killed or wounded on the Route 10 battlefield.

Faced with this situation, the Vietnamese commander in Phnom Penh ordered the 330th Division, which has already been on the battlefield, to cooperate closely with the fresh Vietnamese units in order to continue the fight. [passage omitted]

SRV E-51 Unit Under Attack in Kompong Thom

BK2303044290 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Excerpt] On 18 March, the Vietnamese enemy aggressors moved a regiment of special E-51 intervention forces, made up of 150 to 200 Vietnamese troops wearing Cambodian Army uniforms, from Phnom Penh to oppose our Cambodian national resistance forces in Kompong Thom Province, particularly in an area west of Route 12 in Kompong Svay District and in Stoung District.

Our Cambodian national resistance forces are now vigorously attacking the E-51 unit in those districts, killing many of them on the spot. [passage omitted]

Soviet Experts Reportedly Arrive in Battambang

BK2303011890 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 22 Mar 90

["Special Report"]

[Text] Reliable sources have reported that a group of Soviet Army specialists recently arrived in the Battambang provincial city. The Soviet specialists are to study the situation on the Battambang and Highway 10 battlefields—where Vietnamese forces are launching large-scale operations aimed at recapturing the township of Pailin—in order to assess Vietnam's needs and assist the Vietnamese in their continued war of aggression against Cambodia.

The Soviet experts have come to Battambang at a time when the Vietnamese enemies have sent thousands of Vietnamese troops to reinforce their comrades who are already in place in order to launch a large-scale military operation against us on the Route 10 battlefield and to retake the Pailin township.

This shows that in a situation where the ASEAN states and the majority of countries in the world are exerting efforts to search for a solution to end the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia, the Soviet Union and Vietnam are continuing the war to further occupy Cambodia. Both the Soviets and the Vietnamese have tried at all costs to preserve the Vietnamese lackey puppet regime in Phnom Penh so that Vietnam can continue to

hide its aggressor troops and further occupy Cambodia in accordance with its strategy of swallowing the country forever. This is why the Soviets, Vietnamese, and Vietnamese lackey puppets have categorically objected to verification of the presence of Vietnamese aggressor troops in Cambodia by a UN international control mechanism.

Laos

Nouhak Phoumsavan Greets USSR's Lukyanov

BK2103103090 Vientiane KPL in English 0853 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Vientiane, March 21 (KPL)—Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the People's Supreme Assembly of the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic] sent, on March 16, a message of greetings to Anatoliy Ivanovich Lukyanov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Assembly in Moscow:

The message states:

"On the occasion of your election as chairman of the USSR Supreme Assembly, on behalf of the government and people of the Lao PDR and on my own, I would like to express warm congratulations and best wishes to you".

The message went on to wish for strengthening of the friendly relations, solidarity and all-round cooperation between the two countries, in particular between the two legislative bodies, for the common interest of both Lao and Soviet peoples, for peace in the world. The message also wished the USSR Supreme Assembly's chairman good health and success in his noble task.

Kaysone Phomvihan Greets Mongolian Party Leader

BK2103104790 Vientiane KPL in English 0904 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Vientiane, March 21 (KPL)—Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, on March 16, 1990 sent a congratulatory message to Gombojabyn Ochirbat, on the occasion of his election to the post of the general secretary of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee.

The message said that his election as the party general secretary in such a complicated circumstance has testified to the trust the Mongolian party and people have in him, expressing hope that he would be able to rid the country of the difficulty for the happiness and prosperity of the Mongolian people.

The message wished him success in his noble task in the interest of the fraternal Mongolian people and of peace in Asia and the world over.

Sisavat Keobounphan Meets Foreign Envoys

*BK2003100690 Vientiane KPL in English 0932 GMT
20 Mar 90*

[Text] Vientiane, March 20 (KPL)—General Sisavat Keobounphan, mayor of Vientiane, received here on March 18, Philip Allan Jackson, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Australia to the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic], who is about to end his mission here.

Gen Sisavat Keobounphan, on this occasion, spoke highly of the ambassador's contribution to the strengthening and promoting of the friendship and cooperation between Laos and Australia. He also wished the ambassador good health and success in his future duty.

Also on the same day, Gen Sisavat Keobounphan received Bambang Sumantri, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia to the Lao PDR. Gen Sisavat Keobounphan expressed thanks to the ambassador for his active activity during his mission here. He wished the ambassador happiness and a good trip home.

Palestinian Friendship Association Established

*BK2103110690 Vientiane KPL in English 0910 GMT
21 Mar 90*

[Text] Vientiane, March 21 (KPL)—The Association for Palestinian-Lao Friendship has been recently declared established, according to the Palestinian Embassy here, the VIENTIANE MAI daily reports today.

A member of the Politburo of the Palestinian Resistance Front was elected as president of the association, said VIENTIANE MAI, indicating that the association's head office is located in Tunis.

Phoumi Vongvichit Closes Party Anniversary Rally

*BK2303111790 Vientiane Domestic Service
in Lao 1000 GMT 22 Mar 90*

[Speech by Phoumi Vongvichit, Political Bureau member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, acting president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and chairman of the committee for the celebration of the 35th anniversary of the party, closing the rally held in Vientiane on 22 March to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the party—live]

[Text] Respected members of the Presidium; beloved comrades and friends; beloved foreign guests:

The grand rally celebrating the 35th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] is filled with profound contents and is proceeding amid a solemn and orderly atmosphere. The speech by Comrade General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihane points out to us that the undaunted and persistent struggle of our entire party, Army, and multiethnic people throughout the past 35 years is considered a fierce, furious, and successful

struggle. It notes the heroic tradition of our party which has adhered to Marxism-Leninism and has applied its concepts to the practical conditions in our country. Our party has increasingly developed. Following the restructuring carried out by our party since its fourth congress, the condition of our country has been quickly renovated. In addition to carrying out creative criticism in its own ranks, our party has put forth a direction for the consolidation, promotion, and expansion of the popular democratic system. It has also provided an opportunity for the people to criticize the party building. As a result, our party has gained the confidence and appreciation of the entire party and people. The LPRP is the only party which has organized and led all victories of the Lao revolution.

The celebration ceremony marking the 35th anniversary of the LPRP is nearing an end. To show our gratitude to the talented party, let our entire Army and people continue to launch more enthusiastic movements to securely defend our country and build our new system, and to positively consolidate, promote, expand, and perfect the popular democratic system ever more extensively and firmly with each passing day in order to score achievements to welcome the forthcoming 120th birthday of Lenin, the 100th birthday of Ho Chi Minh, and the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Once again, as chairman of the committee for the celebration of the grand festival, I would like to extend sincere thanks to all distinguished guests and members of diplomatic corps for sacrificing valuable time to attend our ceremony here today. I wish all of you good health and successes in performing all tasks and realizing all aspirations. I would now like to declare the rally closed. [applause]

Editorial Marks LPRP Founding Anniversary

*BK2203105790 Vientiane KPL in English 0924 GMT
22 Mar 90*

[Text] Vientiane, March 22 (KPL)—Today, March 22, 1990 marks the 35th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP], heir to the tradition of the Indochinese Communist Party with late President Ho Chi Minh as the founder and educator, comments the PASASON daily in its editorial.

Since its existence, the party has pursued its essential tasks of uniting and leading pluri-ethnic Lao people to fight the American imperialists' aggressive war and interference in the cause of the national salvation and the establishment of a peaceful, independent, democratic, unified and prosperous country of Laos.

This eventually led to the final victory, the national liberation and the founding of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on December 2, 1975, says the editorial.

Subsequently, the editorial goes on, the party has adopted two strategic tasks: comprehensive socio-economic development nationwide while conducting simultaneously three revolutions with gradual achievements. Through its practical deeds and the fraternal countries' experiences, the party is determined in the introduction of the comprehensive restructuring programme, creatively and promptly adapting Lenin's new scheme of economic policy into the country's reality for economic development.

This has resulted in replacing the state centralized and bureaucratic mechanism of subsidization with an adjustable new management mechanism, hence making the new economic structure become gradually concretised: the national economy gains a positive development with extensive production, wider domestic markets and enlarged economic relations with foreign countries. These paint the physiognomy of the nation whose prestige has been further raised at the international scene, stresses the editorial.

Such positive development has testified to the correct revolutionary and restructuring policies of the party. It is inseparable from the disinterested assistance by the parties, states and peoples of Vietnam, Kampuchea, the Soviet Union, China, and of other fraternal and friendly countries. The development provides the Lao people the knowledge that "the Lao PRP is unique, the core of unity among pluri-ethnic people, which organises and decisively leads the Lao revolution to victories," stresses the editorial.

The party, says the editorial, has undergone restructuring in its leadership, defined the new stage of revolutionary characteristics, the improvement of the people's democratic regime to gradually advance towards socialism.

To that end, the party will perfect its leadership vis-a-vis the state and mass organisations. Commemorating the 35th party anniversary, the editorial ends, we are proud of the party's works and its political growth, stressing that the more the party is strong the faster it advances.

Party Official Meets With Committees in Sekong

*BK2203114990 Vientiane KPL in English 0936 GMT
22 Mar 90*

[Text] Vientiane, March 22 (KPL)—Somlat Chanthamat, secretary of the LPRP CC [Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee] and head of its Propaganda and Training Board, on March 16 met with the party and administrative committees of the southern Sekong Province.

He spoke of the resolutions of the Secretariat of the LPRP CC on the strengthening and developing of the grass roots and the propaganda work for improving the party's and mass organization activities.

He also pointed out the new changes in the country that are under way based on the new political conception, as well as the political, socio-economic changes in Asia and in the world.

Philippines

Further Reportage on Galido's Coup Disclosures

General Claims U.S. Involvement

*HK2303012590 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE
in English 22 Mar 90 pp 1, 8*

[By staff writer Pamela Balcena]

[Text] A general has claimed that the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency [DIA] agreed to supply the weapons to be used by rebel military forces during the December 1989 coup d'etat.

This was revealed yesterday when the Department of Justice made public the sworn affidavit of Brig. Gen. Alejandro Galido, the principal witness of the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] in rebellion charges filed against opposition leader Homobono Adaza.

Galido, who was replaced as chief of the AFP-Southern Luzon Command on Tuesday prior to his retirement at the end of this month, has also claimed that he had infiltrated the rebel camp, had known of the December coup, and had informed AFP chief Gen. Renato de Villa about it.

Among the other "explosive" items in Galido's affidavit were:

- That U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Platt tendered a party in his Forbes Park residence last August, attended by some coup plotters who were supposed to give the general some instructions;
- That former First Lady Imelda Marcos promised to help bankroll the coup by giving P[pesos]10 million to the plotters within 24 hours of returning to the Philippines from the U.S.;
- That President Aquino's estranged cousin Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. was supposed to serve in a civilian-military junta if the coup succeeded, but rebel leader Brig. Gen. Edgardo Abenina objected; and
- That Abenina suggested that Mrs Aquino, De Villa and Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos be assassinated during the coup.

Galido himself has been widely reported as a possible coup plotter. Some AFP officers have also accused him of being a fence-sitter during the December coup.

In the affidavit executed at Camp Crame last January 23, Galido said businessman Cesar Lopez introduced him to U.S. Air Force Col. Harold Magleo sometime in July 1990. He said Magleo served in the DIA and claimed to be very closely associated with Platt. He quoted Magleo

as saying that the DIA "favors the overthrow of the Aquino government and the return of the Marcoses to the Philippines."

Galido said Magleo promised the coup plotters that the DIA would provide coup weapons for the coup, including antitank missiles, from sources outside the United States. Galido said that in exchange, the DIA wanted \$20 million, to be raised either by the Marcoses or their loyalists in Manila.

He said he attended a party in Platt's residence on August 14, 1989. There, he received instructions about the December coup through a letter from Abenina, who was then detained at Camp Crame for complicity in the August 28, 1987, military rebellion. Galido said other coup plotters were at the party, but did not identify them.

Aside from Adaza, Abenina and Magleo, others implicated in Galido's affidavit were:

- Businessman Cesar Lopez, who supposedly introduced the general to Magleo;
- Cojuangco's brother, Henry;
- Luis "Baby" Asistio, brother of Kalookan City Mayor Macario Asistio Jr.;
- Luis Tabuena, general manager of the Manila International Airport during the Marcos years;
- Brig. Gen. Luther Custodio, former chief of the Aviation Security Command and a suspect in the 1983 assassination of Mrs Aquino's husband, Ninoy;
- Discharged Army Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan;
- Brig. Gen. Jose Ma. Zumel, a Marcos loyalist;
- Retired Brig. Gen. Artamio Tadiar of the Marines;
- Former Customs intelligence chief Billy Bibit; and
- Rico Mendoza and Cherry Cobarrubias.

Galido is among the government witnesses in rebellion cases filed with the Department of Justice [DOJ] on Tuesday by De Villa against Adaza, a former assemblyman; Lopez; Edgardo Abenina Jr., son of the general; Joaquin Venus, Marcos's presidential assistant for legal affairs; and businessmen Mel Verano and Medardo Pestano.

State Prosecutor Aurelio Trampe, head of the 15-man DOJ team investigating civilians involved in the coup, subpoenaed Adaza and his co-accused yesterday to submit evidence in their defense on April 2.

State Prosecutor George Dee, spokesman of the DOJ team, said the other witnesses are Cols. Juan Mamorno and Hernani Figueroa, Maj. Eduardo Sebastian and Capt. Oscarlito Mapalo. Their affidavits were submitted to the DOJ on Tuesday by De Villa.

Dee said Galido has promised to testify in court on everything he saw and heard during meetings with coup leaders in Metro Manila.

Galido claimed in his affidavit that he was present in several meetings called by Adaza with Honasan, Zumel and Bibit in August, September and November last year.

He said Honasan's group thought they had convinced him to join the coup. "But all the while, I was reporting to General de Villa," he said.

De Villa and the AFP brass have been criticized for being caught flat footed by the December rebellion despite intelligence community warnings of a coup in the making. Several AFP officers have also testified before the Davide commission investigating the causes of the coup that the rebels were made to believe that the AFP brass were in on the plot.

Galido said Marcos loyalists were in close contact with the Reform the AFP Movement-Soldiers of the Filipino People, which formed the bulk of the coup forces.

Galido said he talked with Mrs. Marcos on the telephone last September 5 and on a later date, and that she promised to give P10 million to partly bankroll the coup, but only after she return to Manila. He said Mrs. Marcos told him to speed up preparations for the coup so that she could bring home immediately her then-ailing husband Ferdinand. He added that Mrs. Marcos told him to borrow initial funding from other sources because she was "hard up on cash" at that time. "She promised to support the new government or junta out of her resources, which she expected to recover in the country," he said.

Galido and Cojuangco was supposed to be one of three civilian members of the seven-man junta, but General Abenina objected. He added that Honasan was supposed to be one of three military members of the junta (the seventh member was to be elected by the junta), but was deemed "a mere junior officer." He said he was offered the third seat along with Zumel and Tadiar.

Galido said the plot was originally set for Christmas Day, and he was surprised when Honasan's group struck on December 1 instead. He said this was the reason he remained neutral during the coup. "I was caught by surprise, so I told the rebel group that I could not mobilize my troops to join them," he said.

He said Honasan and Zumel "were calling the shots" during the plotters' meetings. He added that the other officers now testifying against Adaza and his co-accused were then being convinced to join the coup.

Galido said Honasan's group instructed him to start "destabilization moves" against the government in August 1989.

He alleged that he was assured by the plotters that Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile would support the junta.

He said the junta would have closed down Congress and ruled by decree. The seventh member to be elected by the six coup leaders would have been someone "with international stature."

Aquino Issues Statement

HK2303014390 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0900 GMT 22 Mar 90

[By Gabby Concepcion—italicized portion in English]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino has ordered the investigation of Brigadier General Alejandro Galido's revelation of the involvement of an American national in December's coup attempt. The president issued the directive after she met with Armed Forces Chief General Renato de Villa. In a statement read to us by Press Secretary Tomas Gomez III, Mrs Aquino expressed doubt over the basis of General Galido's revelation.

The president brushed aside the latest appeal issued by former First Lady Imelda Marcos to allow her to return in exchange for the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses.

Mrs Aquino also made a statement regarding the military bases issue. Here is the president through Press Secretary Tomas Gomez III:

[Begin recording] *The statement of Brigadier General Alejandro Galido was taken by the military authorities and turned over to the Department of Justice. The Department of Justice will be holding hearings to determine probable cause, to file charges against the civilians implicated.*

Regarding the reference on alleged U.S. intelligence agent by the name of Colonel Harold Magleo, this is so far unverified and the U.S. Embassy has issued a statement denying the same. The U.S. mission and the Department of Foreign Affairs are checking on their figures. [passages indistinct]. [end recording]

Senate Reacts to Disclosures

HK2303013990 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company
DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 22 Mar 90

[By Cesar Chavez—italicized portions in English]

[Excerpts] The Senate has expressed concern over an expose made by resigned Southern Luzon Command [Solcom] Chief Brigadier General Alejandro Galido claiming that the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency, through U.S. Air Force Colonel Harold Magleo, conspired with former First Lady Imelda Marcos, Danding Cojuangco, and other civilians to overthrow the Aquino government last 1 December 1989. Two senators expressed doubt over General Galido's credibility. It will be recalled that Galido claimed he was a government agent tasked with infiltrating the Reform the Armed Forces Movement [RAM]. Here is Senator Ernesto Herrera:

[Begin recording] [Herrera in progress] *...go deeper into the Galido allegations because these are serious allegations. Now, if you will remember, he was perceived before as aligning himself with the coup. Now, he is saying that he's an infiltrator in the rebel camp and providing information to the military and, specifically, he is insinuating that General De Villa knew about it. And so, General De*

Villa must have to explain because these are serious allegations, even implicating important personalities, as well as the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency, and there was this promise to provide arms.

[Reporter] Are you indicating that General Galido might not necessarily be an agent of the government?

[Herrera] Well, I [changes thought] we have certain doubts, in the sense that if he was really an infiltrator, then the military could have been more prepared to meet the coup. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Senator Joseph Estrada believed Galido's disclosure that several factions in the U.S. State and Defense Departments were the brains behind the December coup:

[Begin recording] [Estrada] In fact, when I delivered my privilege speech in the Senate, I already mentioned that the CIA was involved in the previous coups. That is why I believe in General Galido's expose that the CIA was involved.

[Reporter] Sir, what should the government do with the exploratory talks? Suspend them?

[Estrada] Pending the investigation, I filed a resolution in the Senate that the Defense Committee should investigate General Galido's expose. These are grave issues and we must establish the veracity and truth to these.

[Reporter] Is it necessary to invite Ambassador Platt?

[Estrada] If he can be invited. But we already know his response. It would be similar to his response when we asked him if there were nuclear weapons inside the military bases. What did he say then? Remember? He said: *We will not confirm nor deny.* [end recording]

Like Senator Herrera, former defense minister and opposition Senator Juan Ponce Enrile questioned Galido's statement that he is a government agent infiltrating the RAM. According to Enrile, if he was indeed an agent, the December coup should have been prevented because he would have informed the government of the RAM plan:

[Begin Enrile recording—in progress] *...the newspaper accounted for that. But one thing that I noticed is according to him, he was supposed to have been a penetration agent of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. If so, then there must have been previous written reports made by him to the military leadership, at least. And if that is so, they should (bail) out all of these written reports if he was really a penetration agent so that their story would be more believable.*

Second, if he was a penetration agent and all along the general headquarters knew about the existence of such a plan and, in fact, their penetration agent had been attending meetings according to him. [as received] [end recording]

Meanwhile, Senator Aquilino Nene Pimentel Jr. believes that the Senate should not meddle with the Galido expose and that it should leave this to the Davide commission. But Senators Estrada, Joey Lina, and Ernesto Herrera urged the Senate Committee on National Defense and Senate Committee on Foreign Relations to investigate the Galido expose.

In a related development, acting Defense Chief Leonardo Quisumbing said that the American intelligence official who was implicated by retired Solcom Chief Alejandro Galido had no blessings from the United States. Quisumbing clarified that in Galido's expose, it was only the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency in the person of Harold Magleo who had been implicated, and not the entire United States. Quisumbing added that in the meeting by the DND [Department of National Defense] fact-finding committee probing the failed coup d'etat, Harold Magleo has allegedly told the government that he is prepared to face any investigations by the government. [passage omitted]

In the House of Representatives, a high-ranking opposition member is questioning the credibility of former Solcom Chief Brigadier General Alejandro Galido in relation to his expose to the Department of Justice implicating members of the political opposition in the December coup attempt. According to former House minority floor leader Rodolfo Albano, General Galido's testimony should not be given weight because even the general himself is in question for his reaction to the incident. However, Congressman Albano believes that all these developments are part of military propaganda aimed to silence the opposition members whose only fault is to expose the government's wrongdoings. Albano said that the opposition will remain vocal:

[Begin Albano recording] We are not afraid because, first of all, we are not hiding anything. All we do, as all oppositonists do, is to check the government. We are not planning to destabilize the government because our objective is to strengthen our democracy through the ballots. What we ask is for this government to reform in order that we obtain a government that is genuinely for the people.

[Reporter] What consequences do you expect from General Galido's expose?

[Albano] Well, as I have said earlier, maybe, their plan is to silence the opposition, but they are wrong because we are not afraid of this. *We still believe that justice will finally triumph in this.* Their propaganda is already an old tune. [passage omitted] [end recording]

House, Senate To Investigate

HK2303071290 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan
in Tagalog 0400 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] The two chambers of Congress will investigate the alleged involvement of the U.S. Government in the

failed December coup. In a radio interview, Congressman Hermogenes Concepcion Jr. said that this could have serious implications for our relations with the United States as well as the Philippines' status as a democratic country.

[Begin Concepcion recording] The House also passed a resolution to investigate the matter. I think the committees on national defense and foreign relations will probe it. With this incident, even our ties with the United States are affected, including our statutes [preceding word as heard]. The entire world is affected. Many say that with this incident, it seems that foreign countries can step on our sovereignty as an independent nation. If we are independent, we cannot allow ourselves to be subject to any state. Because of the instance when we asked help from Clark to fly airplanes *for protective cover, to help us, etc.*, many have already commented that if we are an independent nation, why can we not defend ourselves? Our laws call for [words indistinct]. Why do we have to ask help from the United States? [end recording]

In the Senate, some senators think that retired Brigadier General Alejandro Galido's disclosures are not credible and they decided to carry out an investigation. The Senate Committees on Defense and Foreign Relations will probe the possible involvement of the United States in the failed coup. Galido claims that Harold Magleo, a U.S. national and representative of the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency, offered the rebel soldiers weapons to overthrow the Aquino administration. Senator Ernesto Maceda, the Senate Committee on Defense chief, said the investigation will start next week.

In a related issue, members of Congress' progressive bloc are asking President Aquino to postpone the scheduled bases exploratory talks next month. The legislators do not want the talks to take place until the investigation on the involvement of Harold Magleo in the failed December coup is completed.

De Villa Claims Prior Knowledge

HK2303051990 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
GLOBE in English 23 Mar 90 pp 1, 6

[By staff writers Noemi Alcala and Pamela A. Balcena with reports from D.J. Santa Ana, D. Borje, and R. Bundang]

[Excerpts] Gen. Renato de Villa, AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief, admitted yesterday that Brig. Gen. Alejandro Galido always reported to the AFP brass what he had learned of the December coup plot from infiltrating the rebel camp.

The AFP chief said the Armed Forces were not caught flat-footed by the coup that claimed 113 lives, injured more than 600, and damaged property and destroyed opportunities worth about P[pesos]30 billion.

He said the AFP and the Department of Justice are investigating Galido's claim that the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency [DIA] was involved in plotting the coup.

But the U.S. embassy branded as "without foundation" news reports "suggesting U.S. government involvement in the December coup attempt." The embassy denial did not mention the DIA, which Galido said would have provided the weapons for the coup. But it said that there was nobody in the embassy by the name of Col. Harold Magleo, whom Galido named as the DIA operative who promised the weapons supply in exchange for \$20 million.

Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon also said that his investigators would still try to gather evidence on the supposed involvement of Magleo and the DIA in the coup.

But Malacanang indicated that it was not inclined to pursue an investigation because of the difficulty of independent verification. Presidential Secretary Adolfo Azeuna said the government would just have to accept the U.S. embassy denial. [passage omitted]

De Villa described Galido's sworn statement as "very significant since it will settle many questions" about the coup. He said Galido was spying all the while for the AFP when coup leaders Brig. Gens. Edgardo Abenina and Jose Carlos Zumel were recruiting him to join the rebellion.

De Villa, some AFP officers and political leaders had called Galido a fence-sitter for failing to immediately reinforce beleaguered government troops in Metro Manila with his soldiers in Southern Luzon. De Villa said he has not received up to now a clear explanation on why Galido remained neutral during the fighting or why he even volunteered to act as mediator between government and rebel forces. "It is possible that this neutral position was an emotional reaction" rather than sympathy for the rebels, De Villa said. He said Galido was never suspected of disloyalty, since the AFP retained him as Southern Luzon chief after the coup, and replaced him only on Tuesday since he is due for retirement at month's end.

De Villa, who had been accused by the intelligence community and retired generals of ignoring intelligence reports of a coup in the making, said the AFP was not caught flat-footed when rebel forces started moving at dawn of December 1. He said the AFP knew all the while that a coup was to be launched, but could not pinpoint the exact date. De Villa said President Aquino had been informed all the while of Galido's reports. "We did not keep anything from her," he said.

Asked why the AFP was not able to prevent the coup if Galido had been reporting about the plot all the while, De Villa said the reports needed to be verified. He said "anyone can just pop out and claim a coup is in the offing," but that the AFP cannot just move without solid proof. "It cannot be that way," he said.

Galido's affidavit had details of the time, date and places of his meetings with Adaza, Zumel, Abenina, Gregorio

"Gringo" Honasan, Brig. Gens. Artemio Tadiar and Luther Custodio, and other supposed civilian and military coup plotters.

Government Inaction Criticized

HK2303053790 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
GLOBE in English 23 Mar 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Galido's Revelations"—italicized portions in English]

[Text] For allegations as serious as those which Brig. Gen. Alejandro Galido has made on the December Coup, the government and the military have certainly taken their sweet time in acting on the information and making them known to the public.

Galido's affidavit was executed as early as January 23, two months ago today. In it, he declared among other things:

1. That the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency agreed to supply the weapons to be used by rebel soldiers during the December coup attempt;

2. That U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Platt hosted a party at his Forbes Park residence attended by some coup plotters who were supposed to give Galido instructions that day;

3. That Mrs Imelda Marcos promised to give P[pesos]10 million to the coup plotters within 24 hours upon her return to the Philippines;

4. That a host of political personalities, businessmen and military brass (names supplied) were involved in the coup; and

5. That AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff Gen. Renato de Villa had been fully and periodically briefed by Galido on the coup plot well before it took place.

Nobody needs a map to see what is shocking and new in all this. The revelations that *the U.S. government or a part of that government was involved* and that *General de Villa knew about the plot* are what stand out.

Can Galido be believed is the question.

Yet regardless of his credibility as a witness, these charges are far too serious to be hidden all this time in the vaults of the AFP and the justice department. At the very least, since the supreme concern of the government in January (it still is) was to prevent another coup attempt, Galido's claims should have been verified beyond doubt by now. Yet here we are, gifted with this testimony, and Malacanang is saying that it will evaluate and the military promises to investigate.

Why the silence? Why the inaction of Galido's allegations? And why this disclosure only now?

The government's discomfort with the U.S. as suspect is understandable. You do not accuse the government that was instrumental in saving you from the coup via the Phantom jets of plotting the coup itself. (Though it is not farfetched to imagine, given a little familiarity with

foreign intrigue, that something similar to what Galido claims could have happened.)

But it is also evident that the government is using the same testimony to run after opponents and critics of the Aquino government. Galido has been cited as the principal witness against former Assemblyman Homobono Adaza, et al.

The government and the military cannot simply choose to believe one part of Galido's testimony and disbelieve the other. Either he is telling the whole truth and nothing but or he is not.

This point is all the more significant because Galido's tale rests on his allegation that there was a conspiracy, that he was taken in as a participant though he was secretly acting for the AFP. It is a tale with a cast of many characters and its own chronology of events. Either they all hang together or his story falls apart.

Finally, we cannot overlook the fact that Galido himself, by his actions during the coup, had been suspected of being part of the plot. He could just as well be spinning a tale as a state witness to extricate himself from a rebellion charge.

The possibilities are many, and the truth can only be arrived at through painstaking investigation, verification and interrogation of Galido himself.

If his story stands up, then truly the nation has a much bigger problem to handle than what we earlier believed.

If, on the other hand, Galido is only trying to give President Aquino rope with which to round up her political opponents, then he must pay for this deception.

Unfortunately, two months after Galido told authorities this story, we're nowhere near the truth. The government says it still has to investigate and evaluate. Big deal.

Students, Police Clash at U.S. Embassy 21 Mar

*HK2203114590 Manila MANILA BULLETIN
in English 22 Mar 90 p 8*

[By Vic Vega]

[Text] Scores of policemen and students were seriously injured and 17 students were arrested as anti-riot squad of the Western Police District (WPD) and some 1,000 anti-US bases demonstrators clashed near the American Embassy in Ermita at 4:20 p.m. yesterday.

In front of the American Embassy on Roxas Blvd., about 500 Marcos "loyalists" held a peaceful rally. They demanded fair trial for former first lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos who is facing racketeering charges at the New York federal court.

Col. Ricardo Reyes, deputy superintendent for operations of the Manila policemen said the students, reportedly members of the League of Filipino Students (LFS), attacked his men after the policemen did not allow them

to hold a rally right in front of the embassy building where the "loyalists" were holding their own rally.

Police said that the rallyists started to throw pill box bombs and rocks at the anti-riot squad while retreating but the policemen numbering 300 chased them and fought them with trucheons and tear gas cannisters.

Aquino on Rightist Threat, Alleviation of Poverty

*HK2303094990 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company
DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 23 Mar 90*

[By Dick Sinchiongco of Mobile Unit No. 6]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino today admitted that the rightist rebels of the Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance continue to be a big threat to the government. But she was quick to add that the country's most serious problem is poverty. The chief executive reiterated in an interview by foreign newsmen that unless the government addresses the problem of poverty, the rightist and leftist threats will remain.

It will be recalled that the rightist rebels were responsible for the six attempts to overthrow the administration. Meanwhile, the communist rebels continue to fight the government.

The president stressed the alleviation of poverty even if it cannot be eradicated completely. She further said that besides the country's return to democracy, her administration is responsible for the increase in the growth rate, investments, and exports.

Government To Accelerate Decentralization Efforts

*HK2103095790 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
1300 GMT 21 Mar 90*

[Italicized portion in English]

[Text] President Aquino will hold a meeting with congressional leaders to discuss the approval of a proposed bill on local governments. This was part of the cabinet's decision on decentralization of authorities to local governments. A group of cabinet members was tasked to oversee the decentralization plan. The creation of ten new provinces was also discussed.

Press Secretary Tomas Gomez III stressed that the move is in line with the concept of decentralization and delegation of authorities to local government units:

[Begin Gomez recording] *Budget Secretary Carague rendered the general report on the pilot decentralization project while a decision was taken to add an additional ten more provinces under memorandum circular 111 which was also issued today. In that connection, President Aquino directed DLG [Department of Local Governments] Secretary Luis Santos to commence the process of selecting the ten new provinces. At the same time, she said that total implementation of the constitutional mandate will become reality only when Congress shall have passed*

pending local governments code. And for this purpose, President Aquino will seek a meeting with congressional leaders for consultation and collaboration. It is expected that government decentralization will accelerate poverty alleviation and economic recovery. [end recording]

Former Assemblyman Denies Coup Charges

HK2203100990 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Italicized portion in English]

[Text] Opposition leader Homobono Adaza has denied reports of his participation in the failed coup d'etat in December. In an interview by Deo Macalma, Adaza said there is no truth to the accusation of retired General Alejandro Galido because he had not seen Colonel Gringo Honasan and General Jose Maria Zumel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines for a long time:

[Begin Adaza recording] I do not know which meeting I participated in. I have not seen Gringo for a long time; especially General Zumel because I was not with him. I think the government is thinking that I am involved because I am General Abenina's lawyer, one of those accused in the 28 August coup. If I have made any mistake—and I do not think I made any errors as a lawyer—I have not wronged the government nor the people just because I am the lawyer of Abenina and his co-accused. The government's claim that I was involved in the December coup is not true.

Deo, from 24 November until the midnight of 30 November, I was in London. I was with Vice President Laurel. *Almost midnight of November 30*, we took a plane en route to Hong Kong. We were already going home. But when we arrived in Hong Kong on 1 December, the airplane could not land in Manila. [end recording]

Officials Discovered on Aguinaldo Payroll

HK2203114990 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 22 Mar 90 p 7

[By staff member Manny Mogato]

[Text] Tuguegarao—The names of a Constabulary general, more than a dozen military and police officers, scores of local government executives, and several members of the media here were found in a list of people who reportedly received money from dismissed Cagayan governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo.

The list is a 500-page ledger left by Aguinaldo at the provincial capitol guesthouse where he lived while still governor and which he fled to elude arrest for his alleged part in the December mutiny.

The ledger, with a maroon-colored cover but which has become known here as Aguinaldo's "Blue Book," lists hundreds of names. Beside the names were the amounts apparently allocated for them.

The column for signatures was, however, empty, which indicates that the alleged recipients could or could not have received the money.

Col Dictador Alqueza, deputy Recom [Regional Command] 2 chief, said some military officers had admitted having received money from Aguinaldo.

Aguinaldo reportedly earned from P[pesos]800,000 to P1 million monthly from illegal small town lottery (STL) operations he ran from July 1988 up to December last year.

Military and local official said Aguinaldo used part of the money to buy loyalty of the military and police forces, local government executives, and even typhoon victims.

Among the names the CHRONICLE found in the list were former PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] Recom 2 chief Brig Gen Pedro Sistoza; former 501st Army Infantry Brigade commander Col Mateo Bawagan; one Lieutenant Colonel Fuentes, former 17th Army Infantry Battalion commander and a PMA [Philippine Military Academy] classmate of Aguinaldo; one Colonel Taguiam, Tuguegarao police chief; Lieutenant Colonel Alvarado, commander of the 21st Army Infantry Battalion commander based in Isabela; and Maj Marciano Chavez, head of the PC Criminal Investigation Service (CIS) here. The names of Sistoza, Bawagan, Fuentes and Alvarado appeared in the last 30 pages of the ledger, which apparently contained the general listing of people receiving regular doleouts from Aguinaldo.

The names of the local government executives, barangay officials, local police personnel and even Cafgu [Citizen's Armed Forces Geographical Unit] and Aeta tribesmen serving as armed civilian volunteers appeared in first 450 pages.

The list was arranged according to the names of the towns and the political sub-division of the province. The mayors and the police station commanders had the amounts P5,000 to P20,000 each beside their names. All mayors known to be strong allies of Aguinaldo had P15,000 to P20,000 each; police chiefs, from P5,000 to P10,000 each. The biggest disbursement contained in the ledger was given to the Cafgu cooperative trust fund. Found on page 121 of the ledger, Aguinaldo gave the Cafgu a total of P138,986 in three disbursements on June 6, 1989. The next biggest disbursement was to Sistoza, listed in page 491 of the ledger, dated July 19, 1989. The amount listed was P50,000.

Sistoza, who was removed from Cagayan Valley PC-INP regional command in January after failing to stop Aguinaldo's rebellion in December and enforce the 60-day administrative suspension order on Aguinaldo, could not be reached for comment. He has been reassigned to Iloilo City.

The name of Bawagan, who was also removed from his post for allegedly staying neutral in the March 4 rebellion in Tuguegarao, appeared twice.

Fuentes, who was arrested and investigated for leading his troops in support of the rebellion in Manila last December, was a regular recipient, his name appearing more than twice in the list.

Newly installed Cagayan Gov Melvin Vargas said there were actually four ledgers found inside the guesthouse. The other ledger, used as a guest book, contained the names of daily visitors of Aguinaldo when he was still governor. The names in the guest book tallied with the "payola" ledger. Vargas said another ledger contained the disbursement for some 40,000 liters of fuel at the height of the December coup. The fuel could have been for the passenger buses, six-by-six trucks and other private vehicles which rebel soldiers used in going to Manila. The fourth ledger, Vargas said, contained "irrelevant" information.

The new PC-INP regional commander, Col Miguel Fontanilla, confirmed the existence of the "Blue Book." He said copies of the book have been sent to Armed Forces chief of staff Gen Renato S. De Villa for investigation.

"Heads will roll here," Fontanilla said adding that the ledger would be used to check the loyalty of the officers and soldiers in the region.

Alqueza said many officers whose names were on the list admitted to him that they took money from Aguinaldo. Alqueza said he advised them that they can simply deny their involvement since they did not sign their names.

Mayor Delfin Ting, another political enemy of Aguinaldo, said the photocopies of the ledgers have also been sent to the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (Nica) which would investigate the extent of Aguinaldo's network.

The list also includes names of people from nearby Isabela, Cagayan, the Ilocos and even Manila. It includes such expenses as contributions for a wedding parties, burials, birthday parties, schooling, typhoon victims, for daily marketing and plane fares of guests listed in the book.

Several teachers and employees of the Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of the Environment and Natural Resources department and the Department of Local Government (DLG) were granted cash requests from P100 to P1,000.

Army To Buy British Armored Personnel Units
HK2203050390 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY
in English 22 Mar 90

[By reporter Dario Agnote]

[Text] Newly installed Army chief brig. Gen. Guillermo G. Flores yesterday said the Armed Forces would push through with the purchase of 150 units of mechanized

British-made armored personnel vehicle called Simba despite controversy surrounding the deal.

In a news conference, Flores said the Simba units "must be purchased" despite a lobby against it by American defense officials who described it as "untested." Simba competes with the U.S.-made V-150.

"We hope to be able to pursue it," Flores told reporters in Fort Bonifacio, referring to the plan to purchase the vehicle.

The purchase will cost the Armed Forces a total of \$54 million or P[pesos]1.2 billion. Simba is considered the most expensive wheeled armored personnel vehicle in the market today with a unit cost of \$364,420, excluding weapons, communication and other equipment essential to its operation.

Flores justified the imminent purchase of Simba as "important in enhancing the fighting capability of the soldiers and to improve the combat operation of the Army."

Flores cited the findings of a committee that chose Simba over the U.S.-made Cadillac cage, popularly known as V-150.

These findings found that:

- Simba is capable of protecting itself against "all infantry weapons attack-point blank.
- Simba's V-shaped hull-deflects are built in such a way that is impregnable against standard MK7 anti-tank mine;
- Its engine is modern turbo charged inter-cooled diesel V8 as against the "old fashioned, no turbo" of the V-150.
- It's faster with a speed of 104 kilometer per hour, compared to V-150's 88 k.m. per hour.
- Less maintenance is needed;
- Superb modern instrumentation, vision and controls.
- Full air-conditioning enables soldiers to relax inside. The V-150 has no air-conditioning.

Flores said the Army has "carefully studied" at least six armored personnel carriers from five countries over a period of six years. An Army report said: "The selection criteria and evaluation process were daunting. Eventually the competition was narrowed down to just two vehicles—the V-150 and the Simba."

To some sectors, however, the purchase of Simba could be very expensive and risky. Ever since GKN Defense, the manufacturer, started manufacturing the Simba in 1984, no country has purchased it despite a vigorous marketing campaign launched by GKN to all the product.

Some sectors said GKN has no production run experience and no operational data are available for evaluation and comparison purposes. Even the British Armed Forces has not used the Simba, they said.

But Flores said: "The British still have the Saxon...so probably they don't need it."

The AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines], through then Army chief Maj. Gen. Mariano Adalem, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with GKN Defense, a division of GKN Sankey Limited based in Hadley Castle Works, Telford, Shropshire in England, providing for delivery of 10 Simba units to the AFP, with the remaining 40 to be assembled here through a counter-trade scheme. Army officials, however, yesterday said only eight Simba units will be delivered.

One-hundred-fourty-two units will be assembled here, they added.

Four Army Officers Killed in Manila Ambush

HK2203044790 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Four military men, including a colonel, were killed while two civilians were wounded in an ambush by unidentified armed men this morning in Pasig, Metro Manila. The victims were identified as Colonel Francisco Flores, Armed Forces of the Philippines mopping center chief in Camp Aguinaldo; and Sergeants Antonio Rodriguez, Elias, and (Aminit).

As of press time, the two civilians' name could not yet be determined. The victims were on board a mini-cruiser when the armed men shot them. The assailants were riding in a jeep along Santa Lucia Street, Pasig. The incident took place in front of Cathay Metal Corporation at around 0700. The armed men used high-powered guns, stronger than the ones used by the New People's Army. They fled after the shooting and are now being hunted by the military and police.

Police Sergeant Killed in Valenzuela Ambush

HK2203120590 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Two groups of suspected urban terrorists launched successive ambushes in Pasig and Valenzuela this morning that resulted in the killing of a military officer and four of his men, a police sergeant, and a boy. Two were reported seriously injured. Authorities have launched a massive manhunt for the Pasig ambushers. [passage omitted]

Sergeant Dionisio Bukinkito, assigned to Capcom [Capital Command] north sector, was killed in the ambush in Valenzuela. Reports say that he was driving his car on Marison Road, Valenzuela when he was ambushed. The suspects fled on board a passenger jeep.

85 MNLF Rebels Surrender in Tawi-Tawi

HK2203114790 Quezon City MALAYA in English 22 Mar 90 p 6

[By Mila Velazquez]

[Text] Zamboanga City—Eighty five Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] rebels surrendered to the

Tawi-Tawi PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] provincial command at Camp Alejandro Suarez in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi.

The rebel returnees led by MNLF Commander Perry Sagga of South Ubian, Tawi-Tawi were presented by Col Eusebio Banaag.

The rebel returnees took their oath of allegiance and pledge after the reading of the Holy Quran.

Col Ricardo Soguilon, deputy regional commander for operations, accepted the rebels who also surrendered their firearms and ammunitions.

'Indicator' Views Agricultural Exports to USSR

HK2203045390 Manila BUSINESS STAR in English 22 Mar 90 p 2

["Indicator" column by researcher Ma. Irene Rowena M. Cariaga: "Bright Prospects Await Philippine Exporters in the USSR"]

[Text] An excellent opportunity for Filipino exporters to expand their share of the vast socialist market has arisen with reports that demand for imported agricultural products in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) is growing.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's (UNCTAD) International Trade Center (ITC) said in a market study that Soviet demand for agri-based products has been rising since the 1980s due to lack of production in that socialist nation.

The ITC added that Soviet demand for footwear and garments, two major Filipino exports, is also rising.

It identified the following as the principal agricultural product imports of the Soviet Union: fresh fruits; nuts, meat and meat products; rice; sugar; coffee; cocoa; tea; spices; oilseeds and vegetable oils; natural rubber; tropical timber; cotton; jute and jute products, and hides and skins.

With regard to fruits, the Soviet Union imports what it does not cultivate, the ITC said. It cited bananas and pineapples which the Philippines produces large quantities of.

There is also a big demand for peanuts in the socialist market. According to ITC, in 1987 alone, the Soviet Union absorbed peanut imports amounting to 65,467 tons, nearly two-thirds of that nation's total nut imports.

Sugar is produced in large quantities by the Soviet Union but it still imports a certain volume of the commodity. The ITC said this is because Soviet sugar production is enough for only two-thirds of domestic consumption. The gap is filled up by imports, mainly of raw sugar, which has risen from 3.8 million metric tons (MT) in 1980 to 5 million MT in 1987. Such imports are still expected to grow further in volume in the future, the ITC said.

Other agricultural products which enjoy strong demand in the Soviet Union are cocoa, spices, coffee, oilseeds and oils.

The UN-affiliated organization said that with regard spices, the Soviet demand for this product commodity has been such that during the 1980s, it absorbed 3% of the annual total world spice imports. Soviet spice imports rose in value from \$29 million in 1980 to \$74.9 million in 1987, with pepper accounting for 90% of the total.

Coffee, the ITC said, sells well in the Soviet Union, but the problem for Filipino exporters of this product is that they are faced with strong competitors in the field, including Brazil and India.

Another product when [as published] could undermine Filipino coffee exports to the USSR is tea which is supplied by Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Vietnam.

The ITC also revealed plans are afoot to increase the output of oil-bearing plants like soybeans, sunflower, and palm in the Soviet Union. This would reduce Soviet imports of oilseeds and oils, but the ITC added that at the same time, Soviet demand for coconut oil could also rise. The latter development would favor the Philippines which produces large quantities of coconut oil for export.

Regarding the non-agricultural imports, the UN agency said bright prospects await local producers of footwear and garments in the Soviet Union. The ITC's outlook for footwear in particular is that Soviet imports of such a product from developing nations would average about two million pairs annually. Approximately half of these, the ITC said, would have leather as their basic material. It further projected that demand for footwear will expand in the future, specifically those for leather dress items and sport and leisure footwear. Leather or leather uppers will sell the most, the ITC added.

In terms of garments, the ITC said imports of ready-to-wear apparel and knitted goods went up from \$2.7 billion in 1980 to \$3.3 billion in 1987. More exports of these types of garments would enable the Philippines to attain by 1992 the \$2 million export income mark set by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) for the commodity.

With local manufacturers tapping these market opportunities in the Soviet Union, the Philippines can surpass its 1992 export target to that country of \$38 million.

Last year, local exports to the socialist nation reached \$25.9 million, up 23% from the 1988 level but still below the \$27 million mark posted in 1987.

Thailand

Military Denies U.S. Charge of Drug Links

BK2303014990 Bangkok THE BANGKOK POST
in English 23 Mar 90 p 6

[Text] The military yesterday denied US allegations that Thai officials are involved in drug trafficking from Burma,

saying Thai and Burmese military leaders have agreed to cooperate in the fight against narcotics. Lieutenant General Narodon Detpradiyut, spokesman for the Supreme Command, denied charges that recent expansion of Thai-Burmese border trade and corruption among Thai officials are adding to the drug-smuggling problem, UPI reported. He demanded proof of the claims.

The allegations were made earlier this month in testimony before Congress by Melvin Levitsky, assistant secretary of state for international narcotics matters.

"Corruption poses a significant problem in Thai enforcement efforts," said Mr Levitsky, who is due to visit Bangkok next week. He said "cross-border links for trade and security purposes promote ties with groups who also smuggle narcotics."

Lt-Gen Narudon demanded that the United States provide evidence to support the charges. "This sort of accusation is unacceptable. We need evidence in order to investigate this," he said.

The area of northern Thailand that borders the opium-growing hills of Burma is controlled by the Thai Third Army, which has been accused of helping in the construction of an opium trafficking road into Burma and turning a blind eye to some smuggling activities.

Lt-Gen Narudon said Army Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut discussed narcotics problems with Burmese leader Saw Maung on his visit to Rangoon last week. "Gen Saw Maung said that Burma is making efforts to fight opium-growing," Lt-Gen Narudon said. He said Burma was fighting opium-growing by encouraging farmers to replace opium production with cash crops. "This ensures that the volume of opium production will decrease," he said.

He said Thailand will assist Burma to supervise and suppress drug production and trafficking inside Burma. Lt-Gen Narudon said, however, the Burmese Government also faced difficulties in policing areas dominated by powerful opium warlords and ethnic insurgent groups. "We cannot assist them in those areas either," he said.

Mr Levitsky charged that the Burmese military, which seized power in 1988, has been "accommodating" the activities of notorious opium warlord Khun Sa. On March 13, a grand jury in New York indicted Khun Sa for involvement in attempts to smuggle nearly 1,575 kg of high-grade heroin to the US from September 1986 to February 1988.

The Burmese Government has insisted it is not protecting Khun Sa, but said any attempt by the US to seize him by force would be an infringement of Burma's sovereignty.

The US Drug Enforcement Administration estimates that 40 to 50 per cent of the heroin reaching the US comes from the Golden Triangle area where the borders

of Burma, Thailand and Laos converge. alone is believed to have produced more than 2,600 metric tons of opium last year.

PRC Budget Reflects 'Mixed-Up Priorities'

BK2303021590 Bangkok THE BANGKOK POST in English 23 Mar 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Mixed-up Priorities in China's Budget"]

[Text] China's creaking economy, plagued with state-run business losses, wastage and subsidies, needs drastic reforms.

Key Communist Party figures acknowledge this. Finance Minister Wang Bingqian says the country faces a year of financial hardship and needs quick action to hold subsidies and boost incomes. He says the problem "cries out for our keenest attention." But in China's just-announced 1990 budget official platitudes are not matched by deeds. Subsidies and payments to loss-making state enterprises are forecast to reach the equivalent of US\$22 billion this year, one-third of all state spending. Agriculture, described as the number one priority, gets only a 7.9 per cent rise, barely in line with inflation, while defence corners the biggest increase, a hefty 15.2 per cent on last year to US\$6.1 billion.

The defence boost, clearly a reward for the People's Liberation Army's loyalty in crushing the pro-democracy protests in Beijing last June, is the biggest for many years and is being implemented regardless of pressures being placed on a recession-bound economy. The money is enough to give a pay rise to the entire three million-strong armed forces and cover new equipment.

China's ageing, conservative leadership sees a clear need to keep the army happy after witnessing how quickly Romania's armed forces switched their allegiance to a popular rebellion against late dictator and friend of China, Nicolae Ceausescu.

The Chinese army will still feel a squeeze in other areas. The Government's austerity drive depressed demand for goods produced by military-owned factories, and international reaction to last year's crackdown slashed tourism, leaving many military-owned hotels almost empty. In the past, the armed forces have gained almost as much income from these enterprises as from the national budget.

A decade ago, China appeared to be a leader in communist world reforms. Its latest budget continues its giant leap backwards, with a siege mentality regime clinging to power by the gun. Its emphasis on military spending ahead of food production indicates a belief that the threat of a bullet in the back, not food in the belly, is the best way to maintain peoples' "loyalty." Nothing positive, it seems, has been gleaned from the turbulent events which have swept other communist nations. There is no sign in the budget, which defies the global trend, that any lessons have been learned.

China cannot justify the size of the defence rise by claiming an external threat. Ties with the Soviet Union have improved, although China clearly fears any spillover of Mongolian moves to democracy to its own population. There is no discernible threat capable of taking on China's vast army. The only challenge is a domestic demand for political and economic reforms.

Any government which finds that its very survival depends on rewarding its own army—to intimidate its own people—is in danger of losing direction as well as principles.

UNBRO Wants Crackdown on Site 2 Violence

BK2103013190 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Mar 90 p 5

[By Thana Phuphat]

[Text] Aranyaprathet—The United Nations Border Relief Operation (UNBRO) has asked Thai authorities and Cambodian camp administrators to crack down on violence involving military weapons that has left up to 100 Cambodian refugees dead or wounded every month. Relief officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told THE NATION that UNBRO on Monday [19 March] repeated demands for Cambodian administrators and security forces at Site 2 to eliminate the use of hand grenades, automatic rifles and other weapons. "We asked the camp administrators and the Displaced Persons Protection Unit (DPPU) to stem the flow of weapons, search every house in the camp, and take legal action against those possessing the weapons," officials said. Under codes established by UNBRO, a camp resident found in possession of military weapons faces six months' imprisonment.

To carry out searches on more than 20,000 bamboo-and-thatch houses at Site 2, administrators from the noncommunist Kampuchean People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) and DPPU, a lightly-armed unit organized by the Thai military, need full cooperation from Thai field military personnel, officials said. Officials said house searches have been successful in seizing large numbers of firearms and hand grenades at Site B, another camp administered by the Nationalist Siha-noukist Army. According to an UNBRO field office here, an average of five Cambodians were killed and 88 wounded per month in 1989 in the 11 border camps in incidents involving military weapons. Cambodian militiamen, believed to be KPNLF troops, were responsible for some of the violence. The militiamen crossed the border into Thailand to enter the camps and rob residents, officials said.

More than 90 percent of the violence continues to take place at Site 2, the largest of the camps, located in Ta Phraya District of Prachin Buri, officials said. The camp houses some 140,000 Cambodians controlled by the KPNLF. During the first two months of this year, eight Cambodians have been killed and about 190 others injured at Site 2. The latest incident occurred Friday

when a hand grenade was lobbed at a house occupied by a family. Two people were seriously injured. UNBRO officials believe the incident was motivated by a personal dispute. "War weapons, particularly hand grenades, have been widely used by Cambodians against their fellow camp residents to settle business and personal disputes," officials said. Officials said the use of weapons at Site 2 is more prevalent than at other camps because residents there are generally less disciplined. Before moving to Site 2 in 1985 and 1986, thousands of residents lived in areas along the Thai-Cambodian border, including Nong Chan and Ampil, where the black market thrived in the absence of law and order. The official also attributed the violence to mental stress resulting from prolonged confinement in border camps.

Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Coordination of Kampuchean Humanitarian Assistance Programmes and UNBRO have repeatedly voiced concerns over the daily presence of large number of soldiers at Cambodian civilian camps.

—At a donors' meeting in New York in February, Special Representative of the Secretary General S.A.M.S. Kibria said apart from violence against Cambodian civilians by fellow camp residents and armed robbers, 15 percent of the incidents directly involved members of the DPPU. "In the most recent of these serious incidents, on Jan 31, a DPPU guard shot and killed a Cambodian woman outside of Site B," Kibria said. The special representative said the guard has been arrested, and that he has asked UNBRO officials to carry out a thorough investigation and review the overall security situation in the border camps.

'Neutral' Refugee Camp Plan To Be Submitted

*BK2303113090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1100 GMT
23 Mar 90*

[Text] Bangkok, March 23 (AFP)—A draft plan for establishing "neutral camps" to house Thailand's 290,000 Cambodian refugees is to be submitted to Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan next week, a Thai National Security Council (NSC) said here Friday [23 March]. "We have given considerable thought to every aspect of the proposal, and we believe that a draft plan will be completed and handed to the prime minister at the end of next week," said the NSC official, who asked not to be named.

The camps along the Thai-Cambodian border housing some 3,000 refugees are currently controlled by the various Cambodian guerrilla factions, including the Khmer Rouge. Mr. Chatchai earlier this month proposed that camps be set up under United Nations supervision as a means of dispelling guerrilla influence by separating the fighters from civilian camp occupants.

The NSC official did not specify whether the draft plan would call for the closure of existing camps, or merely for efforts to replace guerrilla control with U.N. supervision. NSC officials said the government would make no public

comment on the neutral camp issue until the draft plan is handed to the government next week.

Saudi Arabia To Consider Lifting Workers Ban

*BK2003021790 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
20 Mar 90 p 3*

[Excerpt] Riyadh will lift the ban on Thai workers in three months if Thailand makes progress in solving the February 1 murders of three Saudi diplomats in Bangkok, Thai Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Likhasit Pansomchit said yesterday. The ambassador said the newly appointed Saudi charge d'affaires to Thailand would decide the future of relations between the two countries. "Riyadh has given us three months," he said. Ambassador Likhasit said the government had assured the Saudi charge d'affaires, when he met with Foreign Minister ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi Sawetsila yesterday, that Thailand will do its best to solve the murders. On visas for Thai workers, Ambassador Likhasit said "Riyadh would lift the visa ban in three months if it perceives that Thailand is sincere and capable of providing protection," [passage omitted]

Princess Returns Home From Trip to Laos

*BK2303042190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
23 Mar 90 p 7*

[Text] HRH [Her Royal Highness] Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon returned to Bangkok yesterday after an eight-day official visit to Laos. Her visit has "lifted Lao-Thai friendship to a higher ground," said acting President Phoumi Vongvichit, during a dinner hosted by the Princess to thank the Lao Government at the Thai Embassy in Vientiane on Wednesday.

Calling the visit "the best aspect of Thai-Lao friendship," the Laotian leader expressed his thanks to the Princess, whose trip has strengthened bilateral ties.

The Princess returned to Vientiane after touring Pakse and Champassak in the south of the country on Wednesday [21 March]. Last week, she went to the northern city of Luang Prabang.

As the first member of the Thai Royal Family to visit Laos, Princess Sirinthon was treated to an extensive programme that covered virtually all the historical, cultural and archaeological highlights of the country.

"During the eight days that you stayed here, we the Lao people who received you everywhere were elated... with your graceful and gentle manners, you have reached down to touch a cross-section of Laotians. This, we think, represents the best aspect of Thai-Lao friendship," said the acting president.

More than 100 musicians, dancers and technicians from the Thai Fine Arts Department entertained guests with a Thai cultural show. The Princess also took to the stage to perform tunes she said she had prepared for the occasion. Princess Sirinthon played the tune "Lao Paen" on

the ranat, sang the tune "Tao Hei" and then proceeded to play the Pong Lang, a kind of ethnic instrument of Northeast Thailand. "Please don't take notice of the mistakes, because although I have rehearsed all this well before the trip, now that a week has passed, I may have forgotten something," she said.

Also attending the thank-you party were Lao Army Chief Gen Sisavat Keobounphan, the mayor of Vientiane, Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut and other Cabinet ministers.

CPT Still Mobilizing, 'Instigating Crime'

*BK2303035390 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
23 Mar 90 p 7*

[Text] The Communist Party of Thailand (CPT) is still conducting activities in the country as some of its personalities in the top leadership have not defected, Armed Forces Information Office Director Narudon Detpradiyut said yesterday. He said the CPT is still conducting mass mobilisation and instigating crime in several localities such as Tha Sala, Chawang and Cha-uat districts of Nakhon Si Thammarat in the South and Nakae and Dong Luang districts of Sakon Nakhon in the Northeast.

On the possibility of the CPT resuming insurgency activities, Lt-Gen Narudon said the situation is now in confusion. Certain social conditions have been created, particularly conflicts over land rights, he said.

"Every party concerned is asked to be careful. Speaking of this matter is not intended to bring back to life a communist ghost, nor to create suspicion among one another. "This is only a warning for us all to be careful. Government authorities must be careful in performing their duties while people must watch out for those who want to create conditions of divisiveness," he said.

On Cambodia, Lt-Gen Narudon said that during the past month fighting took place mostly deep inside the country, except for some stray shells that landed on the border.

Thailand and Laos have increased cooperation between local authorities. The March 15 to 22 visit to Laos by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon has tightened relations between the two countries, Lt-Gen Naruedol said.

Vietnam

Army Paper Denies SRV Troops in Cambodia

*BK2303084790 Hanoi VNA in English
0728 GMT 23 Mar 90*

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 23—The Army paper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN today calls it a big mistake for a number of people in the international community to

think it possible to end the civil war in Cambodia by accepting a legal position for the genocidal Khmer Rouge junta in a future Cambodia government.

After recalling that in the last few weeks, the Khmer Rouge, through the medium of some foreign new agencies and radios, repeatedly reported a massive re-introduction of Vietnamese troops into Cambodia, the paper says:

"This smear campaign is aimed at belittling the Phnom Penh government Army's continued [passage indistinct] arms supply to the Khmer Rouge as revealed recently by the Malaysian newspaper THE STRAITS TIMES.

Although having to admit that they are unable to occupy Phnom Penh and the whole Cambodian territory by force, the Khmer Rouge being driven to the current difficult situation, and brutal and fanatic by nature, still refuse to lay down their arms to end the war. The only path they are following is that of war. They have never concealed their intention to use violence and bloodshed to frighten the people, and used war to wear out the Cambodian people who have suffered too much from war, what is more, by waging a civil war they also intend to blackmail the international community into granting them a legal position in a future Cambodian administration. At present some people still labour under the illusion that acceptance of the genocidal Khmer Rouge is the only way to make them end the war. It should be pointed out that such a concession means the surrender of human conscience to an unprecedented ethical monstrosity. What must be done right now is to reduce, and eventually remove, the Khmer Rouge's capacity to wage a civil war, to stop the supply of arms and sanctuary for them".

CPV Plans To Hold Congress in Early 1991

*BK2303082790 Hong Kong AFP in English
0827 GMT 23 Mar 90*

[Text] Hanoi, March 23 (AFP)—The Central Committee of the Vietnamese Communist Party [CPV], currently meeting here to analyse recent political developments in other socialist countries, will call for moving up the planned party congress, an official here said Friday [23 March].

The party's seventh congress, initially scheduled for December 1991, will be held early next year, said the official, who demanded not to be identified.

The official added that the congress was expected to embark on "a very important change in party leadership, both in the Politburo and in the Central Committee."

The official said a large majority of the committee had agreed to rule out that Vietnam evolve towards a multi-party system, as is currently underway in many socialist countries, especially Hanoi's close allies in East Europe.

They also agreed to reaffirm the leading role of the Communist Party in Vietnam's political life, the source added.

"Plenum members are particularly worried by the current political evolution in the Soviet Union, because they fear it could have negative effects on the relations between the two countries," another official said.

Moscow is a close ally of Hanoi, which it provides with large amounts of financial and military aid, estimated by experts at some three billion dollars a year.

"Discussions to assess the consequences the events in socialist countries might have in Vietnam have been very lively from the start," the official said, adding that many of the plenum members believed "Vietnam was in the process of losing all its allies."

The party's Central Committee has been meeting here since March 12 in what observers here said might turn into the longest plenum meeting ever in the party's history. The plenum is scheduled to end at the end of this month.

"Nobody in the Central Committee wants to evolve towards a multiparty system as is happening in East Europe, but to avoid that there is a need to reform the party, make it more moral and democratic," said the official.

"We must build up a state of law and clearly mark a boundary between the party and the state, whose management depends on the government," the official said.

The official also did not exclude the possibility of a future "purge" within the party's ranks. "A large majority of the cadres are incompetent, some are corrupted and often cut off from the people," he said.

According to the source, an important ministerial reshuffling might take place during the session of the National Assembly in June. The official added that the reshuffle might also be accompanied by a regrouping of several ministries to be later handed out to non-party members.

"The party has lost much of its prestige with the population but we can still redress the situation by taking energetic measures towards a greater democracy," the official said.

The official added that the party must learn from events in East Europe and launch extensive reforms to prevent unrest in the country.

TAP CHI CONG SAN Editor Views Democracy

*BK2203135390 Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN
in Vietnamese Feb 90 pp 50-52*

[Article entitled: "The Democracy Issue," presenting "excerpts from opening and closing speeches" by Ha Xuan Truong, editor in chief of TAP CHI CONG SAN, at a symposium jointly held by the TAP CHI CONG

SAN Editorial Staff and the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee on 9-10 January with the theme, "Democracy in Our Country—Realities and Proposals"—place of symposium not given]

[Text] ... The question of democracy—or simply put, the question of citizens and their right to mastery—has been an issue of humanity since the advent of social classes and the state. Since ancient times, it has been raised in both the Occident and the orient for almost the same reason, that is, democracy must go along with freedom, equality, and social justice. Some 69 years ago, Nguyen Ai Quoc wrote two press articles under the same title, "Indochina," for publication in CAHIERS DU COMMUNISM, an organ of the French Communist Party. One of these articles, which was not distributed in our country at the time, has been translated exclusively for TAP CHI CONG SAN by Professor Dinh Xuan Lam. In the article, Nguyen Ai Quoc cited facts in ancient history to illustrate his discussion of communism in Asia. He recalled the concept of "taking the people as the root" pioneered by Confucius in 551 B.C., and that of his disciple Mencius, which maintained that "the interests of the people are paramount, those of the state come second, and those of the king are inconsequential." Nguyen Ai Quoc understood very well that these concepts of Confucius and Mencius must form the basis for governing people, but they did not mean that "the people are masters." In Western countries, it is understood that democracy must go along with freedom and human rights. In our country, democracy must go along with independence first because freedom and human rights are possible only if there is independence. Nguyen Ai Quoc wrote: "To become communists, we need these minimum conditions, the most elementary ones, namely the freedom of press, the freedom of movement, the freedom of education and study, and the freedom of meeting (we have been barbarously deprived of all these rights by the so-called colonialist civilizers).

Nowadays, democracy is a burning issue of our time. In our country, it is the most decisive question of the cause of renovation initiated and led by the Communist Party of Vietnam. Truly implementing democracy is the primary policy of our party because no renovation is possible without democracy. In its letter concerning the celebration of the major anniversaries in 1990, the party Central Committee appealed: "In 1990, we must strongly push forward the true implementation of democracy in the field of party activities and in all spheres of social life."

Our symposium, which was planned for a long time, is now being held to serve the cause of renovation.

Democracy is both a human value and a social institution; it has a human character as well as a class character. The level of democracy is predicated on the level of civilization. If there is no civilization, how can democracy be possible? Democracy is also a means to achieve civilization, a form of existence and management of modern society. The content and form of the various

democratic systems reflect the level of existence and development of civilization. The ruling class' awareness of the people's role and the people's awareness of their own role as masters of society are two issues that are not always compatible; whether they are compatible or not depends on the concrete historical conditions of each period of evolution of history. The advancement from the concept of "taking the people as the root" to the concept that "the people are masters" involves a long period of history. Democratic regimes—from those of ancient times to those of the bourgeoisie and socialism (genuine socialism)—are the result of social evolution from a lower to a higher level in the process of human and social perfection.

...Marx and Lenin did not criticize the bourgeois democratic regime because of its democratic slogans and the forms of bourgeois democracy-implementing organizations, but because of the deceptive tricks used by the bourgeoisie to consolidate its rule. Marx held that political freedom in bourgeois society is just formal freedom for the people, while genuine freedom remains in the hands of those who hold economic power. Lenin criticized parliamentary organs because even "the most progressive of them are democratic in name only as long as the classes they claim to represent do not really hold state power." But both Marx and Lenin did not reject the slogans of bourgeois democracy. Lenin once wrote: "We do not abolish the slogans of bourgeois democracy, but we implement what is democratic in them more thoroughly, more fully, and more resolutely. (Footnote 1) (Lenin: "Complete Works," Progress Publishing House, Moscow 1980—pp 27, 558)

Democracy is, first of all, an issue of politics, but in essence it extends to economic and social affairs as well. At this symposium, some held that democracy is merely a political issue. However, the majority of the participants contended that, in reality, democracy must be carried out simultaneously in the political, economic, and social domains. In broadening democracy, it is necessary to resolve issues related to social structure, state and social mechanisms, education levels, moral, psychology, and so forth. It is necessary to objectively analyze whether the separation of powers is aimed at serving the interests of the bourgeoisie, or whether it is the work of political scientists to oppose the integration of power by a group of people and to struggle against dictatorship and dogmatism. The proletarian dictatorship system is aimed at encouraging the laboring people to implement democracy and to gradually strengthen state jurisdiction. Democracy and law are the two aspects in implementing democracy; "governed democracy" and "governing democracy." The latter is more important than the former because it symbolizes true democracy in which the people can determine their own destiny. The principle of centralized democracy respects the voice of the majority, but it is necessary to ensure that the minority is protected by the law and allowed the right to experiment.

Nobody will oppose pluralism as long as it is understood that pluralism is merely diversified forms of freedom

used to express and defend thoughts and concepts and to find the truth by different methods, and that it deals with the coexistence in society of religious ideologies and atheism... to oppose dogmatism and despotism. The existence of one party or many parties is not determined by law, but depends on the unique historical conditions of each society. In the above context, a multiparty system does not symbolize correct democracy. Likewise, a one-party system does not necessarily reject pluralism. We totally agree with the resolution of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] which rejects an opposition political organization in our society. However, some cadres here at this symposium have mentioned different concepts of pluralism. The issue of political pluralism is not too complicated, but because of our limited time, I cannot explain it in detail. But I will discuss it more comprehensively on another occasion.

It is obvious that since the Sixth CPV Congress, the democratic atmosphere and the renovation cause have been promoted, especially in the economic domain. However, generally speaking, the condition of no democracy or a lack of democracy is prevalent, while such serious phenomenon as belittling the life of citizens also exists. This is a violation of democracy and the law. It is necessary to conduct an investigation to fully discover in a scientific manner the real condition of democracy in our country. However, based on judgments and experiences expressed by all those present here, I think we have a general view of the democratic situation in our nation so that we can make proposals to our party and state. From our discussions and concrete judgments and proposals, which were carried out in a serious manner and with a sense of responsibility, I hope that this symposium will positively contribute to implementing socialist democracy in our country.

Rice Planting, Insect Situation Reported

*BK2103043190 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 20 Mar 90*

[Text] During the 10 days in mid-March, all localities throughout the country planted more than 2 million hectares of winter-spring rice, representing some 99 percent of the plan and a four percent increase over the same period last year. Red River Delta localities alone exceeded the cultivation plan by 1.56 percent. Meanwhile, all southern provinces fulfilled 99.9 percent of the crop plan except for Mekong River Delta provinces which exceeded it by more than two percent. Along with tending and harvesting winter-spring rice, the southern localities are beginning to prepare soil for the cultivation of summer-fall rice.

On insect infestation, rice caseworms have reportedly appeared in Quang Binh and Quang Tri provinces in the north and the Mekong River Delta provinces in the south, affecting a total area of 22,000 hectares. In the next 10 days, all localities must concentrate on the following tasks: In the north, while weather is warm, it is necessary to continue tending fifth-month spring rice by

carrying out the second phase of fertilization and preventing and combating rice blast, brown planthoppers, and cotton leaf rollers, as well planting and caring for subsidiary and industrial crops. In the south, efforts

should be made to prevent and eliminate insects such as cotton leaf rollers and leafhoppers which are ravaging winter-spring rice, and rice blast and rice leaf yellows which have a tendency to spread out to many areas.

Australia

Labor Government Faces Recession Accusations

BK2303020290 Hong Kong AFP in English 2013 GMT
22 Mar 90

[Text] Sydney, March 22 (AFP)—Prime Minister Bob Hawke's Labor government was forced on to the back foot Thursday [22 March], only two days before Australia's general elections, to defend accusations the country was in a recession.

Buoyed by an opinion poll showing the conservative coalition ahead for the first time in the campaign, opposition leader Andrew Peacock went straight for Labor's jugular over figures showing the economy shrank 0.2 percent in the December quarter. "I believe, along with many commentators, that Australia is now in a recession," said Mr. Peacock, claiming the government had conducted a scorched earth policy to flatten the economy and rein in the country's yawning current account deficit.

Mr. Peacock also painted Treasurer Paul Keating as callous and uncaring for his remarks Wednesday that the national accounts figures were a "beautiful set of numbers." "One of the most jarring things of yesterday was not the figures themselves, but the clinical, dehumanised, antiseptic remarks that these were beautiful numbers as if people are digits in a computer," he said.

Mr. Keating, who has been Mr. Hawke's treasurer throughout seven years of labor rule, made no apologies Thursday and claimed the national accounts showed his policies were working. "We won't have a recession because a recession comes from a fractured economy," he said. "Yesterday's numbers were an absolute endorsement of government policy."

For the first time in the election campaign Mr. Keating also went out on a limb over Australia's high home loan interest rates, saying they would fall by half to one percentage point from their record 17 percent within four weeks of a Labor election victory. "We will provide the scope within a month for that reduction of rates to pass into housing interest rates," he said.

Prime Minister Hawke adopted a similar line as economic issues dominated the election countdown. Mr. Hawke said that sustainable falls in interest rates would not be threatened by recently rising interest rates in Japan because Australian rates were already eight percent higher.

But opposition industry spokesman John Howard, whom Mr. Peacock ousted as Liberal Party leader last year, was sceptical about the prospects of any noticeable fall in the next few weeks—"no matter what the (election) result." "Interest rates are going up overseas and we still need to attract a large amount of money to finance that current account deficit and I am not so certain that we are going to get a fall-off in interest rates in the next few weeks," he said.

The coalition Liberal and National Parties need to attract an overall swing of 2.6 percent to prevent Labor from winning a record fourth term on Saturday.

Mr. Hawke was confident Thursday that Labor would be returned with a majority of around 18 seats in the 148-seat House of Representatives.

A Morgan Gallup poll taken earlier this week put the opposition in front for the first time in the campaign with 40.5 percent support to Labor's 39.5 percent. But both Mr. Hawke and Mr. Peacock acknowledge that the outcome is likely to depend on the second preferences of voters who do not give the major parties their first choice vote.

Opinion polls have indicated nationwide support of some 15 percent for the minority Australian democrats, who hold the balance of the power in the Senate although they have yet to win a seat in the lower house.

Forty of the 76 seats in the Senate, the upper house of review, are also being contested in Saturday's elections.

Labor has campaigned heavily on its record of economic management and allegations of divisions within the conservative ranks.

Political analysts said Mr. Peacock appeared to have staged a strong comeback over the last week following his announcement that the conservatives would oppose a proposal to build a Japanese-backed city of the future in Australia. Mr. Peacock's statement has introduced a racial undercurrent to the campaign, and the latest Morgan Gallup poll indicated this could be a factor in the opposition's improved showing.

Mr. Hawke again Thursday accused Mr. Peacock of being opportunistic, describing his stand as a "calculated insult to the Japanese."

Mr. Peacock denied any suggestions he had taken a racist decision, saying: "The only race I get excited about is one I have a horse in."

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